

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
Beaver High School  
Beaver, UT  
December 6, 2011  
7:00 p.m.**

**REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA**

**MOTION: To accept the minutes and agenda as submitted.**

**VOTE: Unanimous.**

**BEAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2012**

**MOTION: To accept the Bear Recommendations for 2012 as presented.**

**VOTE: Motion passed 9:1**

**FALCONRY GUIDEBOOK AND RULE R657-20**

**MOTION: To accept the Falconry Guidebook and Rule R657-20 as presented.**

**VOTE: Unanimous**

**INTRODUCTION OF BONNEVILLE CUTTHROAT TROUT TO THE NORTH FORK OF  
CORN CREEK**

**MOTION: To accept the Introduction of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout to the North Fork of Corn  
Creek as presented.**

**VOTE: Unanimous**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION: To accept the 2012 RAC meeting locations as presented.**

**VOTE: Unanimous**

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 7:00 p.m.**

<b>RAC Members Present</b>	<b>DWR Personnel Present</b>	<b>Wildlife Board Present</b>	<b>RAC Members Not Present</b>
Dale Bagley Layne Torgerson Mike Staheli Paul Briggs Steve Flinders Sam Carpenter Rusty Aiken Clair Woodbury Mike Worthen Mack Morrell Brian Johnson	Doug Messerly Stephanie Rainey Lynn Chamberlain Teresa Griffin Jason Nicholes Blair Stringham Heather Grossman Vance Mumford John Shivik Richard Hepworth Dustin Schaible Jim Parrish Scott Dalebout Anis Aoude		Cordell Pearson David Black

Steve Flinders called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were approximately 14 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, Wildlife Board members and DWR employees.

Steve Flinders: Let's bring things to order then. It looks like we have a quorum. I'd like to welcome everybody out tonight to the Southern Region RAC meeting. My name's Steve Flinders. I'm the chair; I represent the Fish Lake and Dixie National Forests. We'll start by introducing the RAC. We'll start down on the left, Brian.

Brian Johnson: I'm Brian Johnson from Cedar City. I represent non-consumptives.

Mack Morrell: Mack Morrell from Bicknell, representing agriculture.

Mike Worthen: Mike Worthen from Cedar City, representing the public at-large.

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken from Cedar City, representing agriculture.

Sam Carpenter: Sam Carpenter from Kanab. I represent the sportsman.

Doug Messerly: I'm Doug Messerly, regional supervisor with the Division of Wildlife. Myself and my staff act as executive secretary to this committee but we don't vote.

Paul Briggs: Paul Briggs from Cedar City. I represent the BLM, southern region.

Mike Staheli: Mike Staheli from Delta, and I'm a public at-large.

Layne Torgerson: Layne Torgerson from Richfield. I'm a sportsman's representative.

Dale Bagley: Dale Bagley from Marysvale. I represent an elected official.

Steve Flinders: Thank you, in the way of meeting procedures, we'll have the Division of Wildlife make a presentation. We'll then proceed to questions by RAC members and then questions from the public. We'd like to hold these to questions. Have you come to the mic and give us your name. For comments we ask you to fill out a comment card. Groups get five minutes and individuals three minutes. We'll then proceed with motions and voting. With that I'll ask for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting and the agenda in front of you. Any discussion on the minutes?

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion we accept the minutes and agenda.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Layne. Seconded by Dale. Those in favor? Unanimous, thank you.

### **Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)**

**Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes as listed. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Wildlife Board Update: -Steve Flinders, Chairman**

Steve Flinders: In a way of a Wildlife Board update, Doug sent out a draft of the motions. A couple of them I'd like to cover.

- The first one being a motion dealing with mule deer. The motion is by Jake Albrecht and seconded by John Bair. It passed unanimously. It was: I move that we ask the DWR to bring out a more flexible general season deer unit buck to doe ratio proposal or alternatives, versus the current general season

deer unit standard, 18 to 25 bucks per 100 does. This proposal will be taken to the RACs and Board by May 20, 2012. That meeting is available online if you want to listen to the discussion that went on prior to that, but it has to do with scaling opportunity with buck to doe ratios on the small units across the state and whether 18 to 25 fits the bill and is that still what we want to do.

- The other motion to pass the season dates and timelines as presented.
- And lastly I wanted to mention is the motion for Alton CWMU that we passed here, was ratified by the Board, verbatim, with 4 permits and 1 to the public.

Steve Flinders: Any questions on the Wildlife Board meeting?

Mike Staheli: We're not going to vote on that buck to doe ratio then until May?

Steve Flinders: It will come back to us in a way of a proposal from the Division. Whether it will have permit numbers presented to us or . . . uh, we may see it this spring with the permit recommendations, but we'll see how that works out.

Steve Flinders: We'll move on to the Regional Update, Doug.

### **Regional Update:**

#### **-Douglas Messerly, Regional Supervisor**

Doug Messerly: Thank you Mr. Chairman, let me expand a little bit more on the question that was just asked and what you just presented with regard to the different buck to doe ratios. I think the bottom line is, is that there's some concern about the limiting of opportunity based on the one size fits all buck to doe ratio. And what they would like to see is for us to evaluate the potential for having a different objective on some units. I think the practical implications of that for us are, at this point it could change in the future, but I asked a few questions and I think what you will see is a proposal with a sliding buck to doe ratio for particular units. And also you'll see a recommendation for permit numbers because it's all going to happen at the same meeting. For option A, buck to doe ratio, or as the plan states now buck to doe ratio. So you'll have two options to choose from. And it will be a little confusing but um, and it's possible that something could change between now and then but there aren't a lot of opportunities to present this before that happens. So that's what we'll see. I think it was kind of a surprise to many of us that that motion was made; it was generated by the Board. And you know, we can provide you with the scenarios as we see it so that's kind of how it shakes down in my mind, that's my impression anyway.

- Limited entry turkey application period starts tomorrow and it ends December 28<sup>th</sup>. The season dates are in April so you've got to be thinking turkey for Christmas I tell a lot of people. So be sure and get your turkey application in. This is for the limited entry portion of our turkey hunt. If you recall we have a limited entry hunt and then we have a general season over the counter hunt. The over the counter permits go on sale February 3<sup>rd</sup>. They've been plentiful and in fact we haven't sold nearly all of them in the past so I suspect that they'll be there if you don't draw out. But if you want to go early in April you need to apply soon.
- The dedicated hunters, if you'll recall, are changed to go to thirty units. One of the aspects of that is that the dedicated hunters that are currently in the system need to choose the unit that they're going to hunt before we actually

perform the drawing. They will be asked, they were supposed to have started today to have the ability to do that. We are being told now that due to some technical difficulties that it will be Friday that they'll be able to start doing that. For the existing participants in the system there is no limit as to the percentage, although when it comes to the drawing for new applicants, if the 15 percent of the permits percentage has been exceeded by existing dedicated hunters then there will be none available for new dedicated hunters. We anticipate that the existing dedicated hunters will spread themselves across the units and that won't be a problem but it's a potential that it could be. If you recall we're limited to 15 percent of the available permits to dedicated hunters in general. Because this is our first time into this system the existing dedicated hunters will have to choose which units they want to spend the rest of their term on. New dedicated hunters will draw into the units where permits are available and they will have to hunt that unit for the next three years. So that process should begin on Friday. Dedicated hunters will be notified of the need to do that. I suspect if they don't choose a unit that they'll be limited to those that are available after everybody else. So it is important that they do that and that's why we're announcing it now.

- Big game application period begins February 1<sup>st</sup>. Over the past few years we've had it sometimes in January but most recently in February. So we're still a ways out but February 1<sup>st</sup> is when the big game application period starts.
- Fishing guidebooks for 2012 will come out towards the end of this month. We're usually delivering them with our Christmas presents. So in any event it's usually about Christmas.
- Our biologists are nearing the end of their classification. What I'm hearing from them in general is lots of fawns and a pretty good looking post-season buck crop. So that's good news for all of us.
- Our collar survival studies are showing good survival on fawns over last winter and through this summer, and also good survival on adults. So things are looking up in terms of deer production and that's just what we need for our deer to come back.

Doug Messerly: Unless there are any questions Mr. Chairman that's what I have.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Doug... any questions? Sure, Sam.

Sam Carpenter: I know last year, Doug, we met over there in Cedar City and went and looked at the situation over there towards Parowan, the winter range.

Doug Messerly: Uh huh.

Sam Carpenter: They did have doe hunts this year, is that true?

Doug Messerly: They are in progress now.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. And is that looking any better or where are we at on that?

Doug Messerly: Well it depends on the winter Sam. What happens we're having kind of a light winter so far in terms of snow depth. The temperatures have turned off cold which can effect them but snow depth probably hasn't pushed them down to the extent that it did last year at this time, if you remember how much deeper the snow was then. So it's difficult to say at this point. What I can tell you is that taking some pressure off that range can't help but help, if that makes sense. And we'll come with, we'll monitor that situation over the winter and we'll come with recommendations. We're doing bucks and bulls and antlerless all at the same meeting this year so we'll come with recommendations for doe permits or not in the future there depending on how it looks. We had a real good precipitation last year in terms of the habitat and production of forage should be up this year, which is what that needed as you saw. But it's not going to be solved in one year or probably even five. And it's going to take a long time of caring for that range and some good luck in terms of weather in order for it to recover.

Steve Flinders: Thanks, any more questions? Seeing none let the record show us that Clair Woodbury has joined us, at-large from Washington County. Let's proceed into the agenda, Bear Recommendations for 2012, John Shivik came in. Welcome John.

**Bear Recommendations for 2012 11:45 to 25:33 of 1:42:11**

**-John Shivik, Game Mammals Coordinator**

(See Attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Steve Flinders: Thank you John. Questions from the RAC, from the presentation? Sure, Mike.

Mike Staheli: I have a couple of questions John. This summer pursuit down on San Juan and La Sal, do you take into consideration the food source or are all we looking at is the houndsman that are in summer training? Sometimes we've had bear in town before there was a summer pursuit. So I think we need to expand that, don't you?

John Shivik: Yeah. That's exactly. . . we've had all these discussions quite intensely within the ranks. And we can point out years where we had good years and we still saw bears in town. So and again, coming from my perspective looking at it, again, we've got a correlation here through time. And that's why I thought it was very good to not go all the way and get rid of all the permits or do anything drastic and add more, whatever. I think the approach is a really sound one, to get a look at it, and this approach allows us to experiment and say, does reducing permits actually reduce it. And, because other factors are really important, there is food, there is weather, there are other, you know the number of other people up in the forest as well too that could be influencing things. But by taking this approach we'll be able to say, okay does our action help or not help. And then in 2014 we'll be able to say okay, we know what works and what doesn't.

Mike Staheli: Okay, and the other question I had was on closing those two units early, and I guess it was to minimize the conflict between the elk and the bear hunters, right?

John Shivik: Exactly.

Mike Staheli: Is there a record kept on the number of actual conflicts? I've talked to a couple of bear

hunters, of course the archery hunters wouldn't have any conflict would they? And so and they have never experienced the conflict and that's why I wondered do we actually keep a record of that or are we just kind of dreaming this up?

John Shivik: I wouldn't . . . I've got sort of the lumps and the e-mails and the phone calls to indicate that that's a passion over concerns over this thing. Again, my thought on it is that we're all out there and we all want to share the mountain as best we can. But at the same time people are waiting 14 years or so to get up in there and we want to be able to respect that as well. So it really is a balancing act and we're doing the best as we can to keep everybody happy, but not close off opportunity to any one group.

Mike Staheli: Well I see that. But we have a lot of other elk units that open the same time but yet we're not reducing the bear dates in those other units; and there's some that are hard to draw elk units too. And I, I just don't see the conflict there and that's why I was asking the question.

John Shivik: A lot of it comes from the regions. And I have to admit the La Sal and the San Juan are kind of unique units statewide. And again, we're balancing everything statewide.

Doug Messerly: If I can add to that John, I've got a little bit of information from that area with the La Sals and Elk Ridge. It's a fairly limited area. I think that's part of the problem. And the answer to your question is that there's probably no way to gauge exactly how much conflict there is other than by the number of complaints that we get by one method or another. I don't know if you survey the elk hunters to see how much conflict there is or you survey the bear hunters to find out how much conflict there is.

Mike Staheli: The bear hunters. There was no, the elk hunters didn't interfere with them.

Doug Messerly: Yeah. The elk hunters probably don't interfere too much with the bear hunters although that would be an interesting complaint. But I think a lot of elk hunters that are interfered with probably don't complain. And I'm not sure that we've come up with a good way to gauge that. The one thing we can tell you is that in terms of the number of complaints that we get that it seems to be high in those two areas. And I think it's because of the limited availability of summer range that they're sharing at the time that these things are going on. And so although it's, particularly the San Juan, it's a huge unit, a lot of this activity is restricted to a pretty small area. I'm not sure exactly how we would count the number of complaints to tell you the truth. I mean we could keep track of e-mails and letters and those sorts of things but I'm not sure that's a good way to gauge it except maybe on a really big scale and say we certainly had more complaints there than we do others. Would that be a fair characterization of how we go about that John?

John Shivik: Exactly.

Steve Flinders: A follow-up question to that that I have about . . . I don't want to talk all night about the La Sal and San Juan, but you mentioned bears in town. There's a discussion about bears and conflicts and dispersed campsites on the forest on the Blues, or Las Sals, or San Juan, Elk Ridge (unintelligible)?

John Shivik: Well what was driving this particular aspect of it was the bears in town. The, any kind of nuisance complaints is what drives into our extended springs and some of those kinds of things, but in terms of the detail that we're looking . . . The town thing is what people got, people scratching their head. Campgrounds and things that seems, you know, kind of par. But when people really started

worrying that the amount of pursuit was mixing the bears up and driving them down for them to essentially looking for a place to rest, ironically enough. That's the hypothesis. So most of the discussion really has been about that issue. And all I can say is we'll see, we'll see.

Steve Flinders: We've seen, I don't know about a strong correlation or not, maybe just coincidence in summer training seasons and reduced conflicts in dispersed camping areas.

John Shivik: Well exactly. I'm sorry I didn't mean to cut you off. No, but you're exactly right; some of the units very much like the summer pursuit as a way, it does move bears. It does move bears. So that kind of argues kind of for and against the whole concept in the sense that we can use it to move bears out of these campgrounds and things but it depends where they go.

Steve Flinders: Sure.

John Shivik: That's an excellent point. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Other questions from the RAC? Layne.

Layne Torgerson: Just another question that was brought up by other sportsmen that I talk to. On the harvest objective tags that are proposed, is there going to be the same, and I don't know how you'll regulate this but, will there be the same waiting period on a harvest objective tag as you have on a limited entry tag?

John Shivik: I would assume... I was trying to think about this. We actually discussed it. We are going to keep everything as simple as we can and as standardized as we can. So I assume we'll do it the same way.

Layne Torgerson: No, because I mean right now the harvest objective tag on a cougar, you can buy a tag this year, kill a cougar this year and then buy another harvest objective tag next year. But on a bear you can, if you kill a bear now on a limited entry you've got a three-year waiting period. So I mean if a guy doesn't kill, if he buys a harvest objective tag on a bear unit, he does not kill, will he be able to buy a harvest objective tag the next year?

John Shivik: Yeah.

Steve Flinders: Any things we want to capture in a motion we'll make note of that. Same goes for bonus points. You lose your bonus points when you go in and buy an over the counter objective tag.

Doug Messerly: The concept is the same as limited entry big game tags versus general season tags. And I don't, does anyone know for certain if there's a waiting period on harvest objectives from the Division? Yeah, it's online. It's an over the counter tag essentially. So there's no waiting period because there's no application period. Does that make sense? You can just go buy it. So if you don't draw out you can go buy a harvest objective. It's set up exactly the same way that cougars are now. Does that help?

Layne Torgerson: Yeah, I think that would answer their question because they were concerned that well if I don't draw a limited entry tag and I go buy a harvest objective tag and I kill a bear, do I have to wait three years before I can kill another bear? Or before I can even buy another tag?



Doug Messerly: I think the process is set up exactly the same as it was with cougars. The objectives are a little bit different in terms of when we shut it down but . . .

Layne Torgerson: Right, and that's how I thought it should be.

Doug Messerly: But yeah, I think the harvest objective concept as proposed is the same as what there is with cougars.

Layne Torgerson: As with cougars.

John Shivik: Exactly. The same way, for instance like with split harvest it's modeled after our cougar. So again, it's the idea as, as complicated as many facets are to this plan as there are it's still the idea is to try to standardize it as much as possible with some of these other things we're doing.

Steve Flinders: More questions? Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I have one more. On the spot-and-stalk hunts that we've had so far on the Book Cliffs, if my memory serves me right, that's the only area we've had a spot-and-stalk hunt, correct? I mean . . .

Steve Flinders: Specifically spot-and-stalk, that's I'm aware of.

Layne Torgerson: I mean that's the only unit we have right now that it is spot-and-stalk, no hounds.

John Shivik: Okay, go on.

Layne Torgerson: Has there been a higher percentage of females killed on the spot-and-stalk hunt versus the hunts we use, that we hunt with hounds or bait?

John Shivik: Oh, I clearly don't, I don't have those data in front of me. I can't give you that off the top of my head. I'd definitely have to look that up.

Steve Flinders: Go ahead Mike

Mike Staheli: I had the same question on those spot-and-stalk: 30 for 3 years that's 90 tags on both. That's 180 tags right close together. That seems like a lot of permits. And I can understand . . . but there's no mechanism that I can see that if the female harvest goes way up nothing's going to change; you're still going to give those 90 tags. And it looks like to me there ought to be a mechanism, or is there a mechanism? That's my question, is there a mechanism in place so that we can monitor this and if that goes skiwampus we can shut it down?

John Shivik: Right. There is a mechanism in terms of the plan it's just, it's on that 3-year scale. And one of the things that we're really counting on, we're really expecting based on what we're seeing in some of the other states, we're not really expecting a high, you would expect a pretty low take in terms of the spot-and-stalk. You can see the 30 but we're expecting, you know, 3 or 4, something like that. So the mechanism has to do is at the end of the cycle all of these things, all of these quotas, everything that

we're showing up here, the idea is to do this for this first cycle, look at those numbers and then that's when we'll make our recommendation. As you have brought up before a lot of these other things in terms of winter, in terms of seasons, how early the spring, how early they come down, how early they go back in, so any one year I think is an important piece of information. One thing that's good about this plan it gives us a 3-year window where we can have a pretty darn good estimate in order to make the next series of recommendations on it. So yes, it's within the plan but it's on a 3-year basis.

Mike Staheli: Don't you think that the females with cubs are more susceptible though to spot-and-stalk? Because a lot of times you won't see those cubs. I mean it's going to be an opportunity; you're going to take a bear at an opportunity so to speak. You know, it's not like you can't catch and release so to speak, or even a bow hunter he watches that bear, he's close. But we might be shooting bears with spot-and-stalk at 500 yards and you're not going to see those cubs.

John Shivik: We are still going to be expecting people to pay attention with sows and cubs from that perspective. And we'll watch that. Yeah, we put in the plan, or was put in the plan and approved that way and those discussions were had. So what it came down to it, I think we're thinking, you know, there's always that kind of risk but not a game changer.

Mike Staheli: That's another question I had. You say they have a bear committee, right, that helps formulate this bear management plan?

John Shivik: Yes, that committee was formed before I started working here. And they went through the plan, went through the whole process. That thing was approved January 24<sup>th</sup>, I think, of this year. They put that together, and now there's not the committee anymore. Now we're implementing the plan.

Mike Staheli: The guys that that I talked to on this committee didn't see these 90 spot-and-stalk tags, early closings, things like that. So that's why I, you know, the committee didn't know that this was going to take place, so this is the first time we have seen this.

Mike Shivik: Right. And that's where it is important on this plan to. . . You know, again, these details, I acknowledge that, we're making the recommendations based on the information we have based on the plan, based on the numbers that we had, and we're putting it in place and we'll do our first 3 years and then we're ready to, we'll get the data and then change as we need to.

Mike Staheli: Thank you.

Doug Messerly: To answer your question too Mike, I can, based on several years of experience here we've passed a lot of 3-year proclamations. If something develops that becomes a threat to the resource, something unexpected becomes a threat to the resource we often come back. I think one of the only ones that I've seen go all three years is the upland game, where there's not a presentation in between, and there have been several others that have been proposed. But, we'll take care of the resource if there's a problem. And others will probably have the opportunity to express their opinion if they believe there's a problem based on the harvest. So I don't, I think there's very little chance that we're going to say sorry we're not adjusting our recommendations when it's clear that there's something that exceeds our objectives, for example, in the plan. So we'll stick to the plan is what it boils down to.

John Shivik: If I can add to that, the idea is we need to not be capricious about it either. There are safety

valves. There are ways to change things midcourse. But we don't want to do that just based on any kind of whims; we want to be serious about it and follow up on what we establish.

Steve Flinders: Thanks, additional questions?

Mike Staheli: Was, one more question.

Steve Flinders: Go ahead Mike.

Mike Staheli: The other harvest objectives, we got Beaver, Anthro, Nine Mile, right? Anthro and Nine Mile. Are there dogs involved in any of those? The harvest objective units, yeah.

John Shivik: The harvest objective units, if we have dogs involved in? There are. Yeah. Any weapon, anything. The only thing you can't do is bait on those.

Mike Staheli: Not on the Beaver

Steve Flinders: Not on the beaver,

Mike Staheli: No dogs involved on the Beaver.

Steve Flinders: No baiting. Another question? Sam.

Sam Carpenter: This is more on curiosity than anything you've really presented. But what impact do bears have on the mule deer population as a predator?

John Shivik: In terms, I think what the state is usually looking at is cougars for adults and coyotes for fawns, and not as concerned about bears on the mule deer population relative to those other species.

Sam Carpenter: So there are no considerations at all involved in this bear proclamation as a predator?

John Shivik: Not in this plan, no.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Dale.

Dale Bagley: I've got an e-mail here from a group of several individuals that signed it. But they're pretty much in support of the fall harvest objective on the Beaver but one thing that they would like to see is that the conservation tag holder be able to hunt all three seasons on that. Is that something that would be possible or is that going to cause some problems?

John Shivik: We've got the conservation tags set up to do the limited entry as a normal conservation tag would do. Problems... if you guys want to you know, propose differences that's up to you. But the idea was to do those as limited entry permits types.

Dale Bagley: So but they could hunt, they can only hunt the spring and fall season?

John Shivik: The limited entry, yeah.

Dale Bagley: And they couldn't hunt the harvest objective season then.

John Shivik: That's the idea.

Steve Flinders: Sure Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: This is along the line as Sam's question. But with livestock are there conflicts with livestock and bear?

John Shivik: Yes there are. In some of those spring seasons, extended seasons have to do with those kinds of complaints.

Rusty Aiken: Are the triggers, one of your strategies for the liberal, for human bear conflict, can we put a livestock conflict in there as well?

John Shivik: Yes livestock is in there. One of things in the plan too, if wildlife services take is more higher than harvest that's also a trigger. So that is the concern, yes.

Steve Flinders: Brian.

Brian Johnson: Seems like you've answered my Beaver questions that I had throughout the process here. But looking at this in the Wasatch Mountain Current Creek (unintelligible) area it's harvest objective in the spring, any weapon, hounds, and no bait. Just was wondering what the logic was there of not having bait in there, or maybe even a split season of sorts and allowing just a small number of people in there with bait so the forest service doesn't get over ran or just what's the logic behind that and then maybe we can discuss it.

John Shivik: Right that would be good. Again the logic is in terms of one, that being the spring harvest objective, one of the things we expecting there might be a large number of people in there, a large number of hounds in there. So in terms of preventing conflicts between the different groups one thing that could happen is that hounds could end up running off a bait a lot more frequently than we would want if you mix those two up together that way. And the other half of it is if someone has got out and set up a bait station and then people come through with hounds and take their bear that's another potential for conflict. So in this first round of it we thought it would be the simplest and best approach is to handle it exclusively this way. So the bowman can still get out but let's just not use the bait and simplify things that way.

Brian Johnson: So we're just basically catering on this unit to houndsman then.

John Shivik: I don't, we're not trying to cater to anybody.

Brian Johnson: That's what it sounds like to me.

John Shivik: No we want the best experience for everybody. But we also had to have this harvest objective, we had to have it somewhere in the state and we had to balance it among the different groups

that are using it and try to get the best experience. And this is our first time at it. We need to look at it and really see how it's going to play out and not set ourselves up for a lot of angry people out there. So that's the idea.

Brian Johnson: I commend the Division on thinking outside the box. I think this is great as far as opportunity goes. If there was say a split season or a split harvest objective, we just reduce that down out of those 10 bears and then they did something like 3 archery tags, those guys that put in for it would know full well that it could be over ran with hounds. But anyways, I'm just asking questions. My question is, if it's only 3 or 4 guys they would know full well that they could get over ran with hounds. I don't see that, do you see that much of a, in that scenario, that much of an area of conflict if there's only a handful of bow hunters with bait?

John Shivik: Right, and in that sense then there's the argument well there's not really that many bow hunters out there so if there's only a few guys then the idea is we're not reducing that much opportunity by not having bait out there. So in terms of the degree of conflict and simplicity of it, it makes it simpler if there's no bait out there. And if there's only a few people that aren't on the unit then that's not like we're denying a bunch to a bunch of people, if that makes sense if you follow me on that one.

Brian Johnson: I'm following you yes but there's not that many bear baits on any of the units in the state. So it's not like, I mean every. . .

Steve Flinders: Lets keep that to questions. We'll just debate it and see what public comment we have. Any other questions from the RAC? Seeing none how about questions from the public? We'll hold these to questions. We'll move to comments after this if you have questions. Come up to the mic and give us your name if you would sir.

### **Questions from the Public:**

Carl Shakespear: I'm Carl Shakespear: I am a hound hunter. One of the questions I have, and maybe it's here and I'm just not finding it. Summer pursuit, will that remain basically unchanged except in those limited entry summer pursuit units? The Boulder's the area that I'm the most concerned about. Summer pursuit will still remain the same as it has been?

John Shivik: Exactly.

Steve Flinders: Thank you, another question?

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. How many bears were taken by wildlife services or individuals that had livestock conflicts?

Steve Flinders: Hardest question. You're going to make them dig through their charts and tables John. Are you asking 2011? We had some times in that presentation on the statewide (unintelligible). Let's give them time to look it up and we may need to get that to you. Other questions from the audience? Braden? Sorry Braden we've got an answer.

Teresa Griffin: John, for depredation we've got it clumped with other mortality. For 2011 it was 29. It's down quite a bit over the last couple of years. 2009, and again these are depredation and other

combined, but 2009 it was 63, 2010 it was 58, and then 2011 it was down to 29.

Brayden Richmond: My question relates to mule deer. I know in the state right now mule deer is probably the. . . Oh, Brayden Richmond. Sorry, Steve already got my name. Uh, mule deer is one of the biggest concerns in the state right now. And so the question that Sam kind of eluded to, I have the same questions. I know in historical studies we've done we found the bears have a large impact on some units on fawns. So I'm just curious why this wasn't included as part of what we were looking at in setting the objectives.

Anis Aoude: Anis Aoude, big game mammal coordinator. They actually presented this, uh; I don't know I guess it's been a year, a little more than a year ago now on what effects bears have on mule deer. And actually all this study showed both in this state and outside this state that it is a minimal effect on mule deer fawns. They do eat some. But the studies have shown that they can have an effect on calves, on elk calves more than mule deer fawns just because calves are more concentrated where they drop and fawns are more dispersed. So yeah they'll eat every fawn they find but they don't find very many.

Steve Flinders: Thank you, any other questions? Seeing none lets move on into comments portion.

### **Comments from the public:**

Steve Flinders: Braden Richmond. You're still close to the mic. Two cards from you.

Brayden Richmond: Yeah, one representing Beaver SFW and then another for UBA. Do you want me to do them both at the same time?

Steve Flinders: Yeah. You got both hats?

Brayden Richmond (see attachment 2): I can work with hats I think. Beaver SFW committee, we just want to support the Division on the harvest objective here on the Beaver. We think it's a real good opportunity to provide more opportunity with minimal impact to the resource. We're pretty excited about that. We do have a couple of concerns. Like I stated a second ago, we're really concerned about our mule deer population. We think it's probably the biggest scariest issue we're dealing with in this state. We can't figure them out. We can't figure out why they continue to decline. We'd like to see more bear . . . we're nervous that we're increasing bear populations while mule deer populations are dwindling. And so we'd like to see more bear tags. We don't want to eradicate bears. We want to preserve the resource but we'd like to not see growth. And then finally, we'd like to increase the time on the spring bear hunts. This year to our knowledge there's only one successful bear harvested on the spring bear hunt in Beaver. We could be wrong on that. But you really only have the last week and a half of the season to hunt. We'd like to see that go into the second week of June. That's from the Beaver SFW committee. Now switching hats to UBA. I brought a letter that I was asked to present for Utah Bow Hunters Association dealing with the, well let me just read it. I won't read the whole thing I'll spare you parts of it and then I'll hand out the letter. It says the Utah Bowman's Association supports the DWR's efforts to provide an increased opportunity to hunt bears via harvest objective hunts. However, the current recommendation inadvertently eliminates an existing opportunity to hunt bear over bait on the Wasatch Mountains, Current Creek, Ab. . . I can't say that work (unintelligible) unit, therefore we recommend implementing a spring limited entry archery only hunt to the Wasatch Mountains Current Creek Unit in addition to the spring harvest objective hunt. The purpose of this

recommendation is to continue to offer the opportunity to hunt over bait on the unit during the spring hunt. We recommend this hunt run concurrently with the DWR recommended harvest objective hunts. On all spring hunts in the state they're archery and hounds currently. We are currently hunting with hounds on archery hunts. This is nothing new. So we're just wondering why we're decreasing opportunity. Thank you. Do you want me to bring these up? ( See attachment 3)

Steve Flinders: Thank you, that would be great . Give one to Lynn and get it in the minutes. Allen Rowley followed by Amy Barker.

Allen Rowley: Good evening, Allen Rowley, forest supervisor here on the Fish Lake National Forest. Just wanted to say we're supportive of the increased harvest levels proposed on the Beaver Unit to help reduce human- bear conflicts up on the mountain. That works well for us. To add to that we have enough concern about this potential conflicts that we're thinking about some kind of requirement for food storage, people food storage in campgrounds to reduce conflicts as well. Just wanted to share that with all of you. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you.

Amy Barker: Amy Barker, district ranger on the Beaver ranger district. And I'd just like to reiterate what Allen just said. We're in support of this proposed changes. And we also would just like to say we appreciate the cooperation of the Division this past summer handling some of the nuisance bear problems. So thank you..

Steve Flinders: Thank you. John Keeler followed by Carl Shakespeare. That's the last card I have.

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. I just asked Teresa about the total numbers they're recommending which wasn't in the information, 494, and the Farm Bureau supports that recommendation.

Steve Flinders: Thank you John.

Carl Shakespeare: Carl Shakespeare, houndsman. One of the concerns I have and I'm focused in pretty much on the unit that I hunt most which is the Boulder Unit. To my knowledge they haven't had many conflicts the last few years and I'm a little concerned about the number of permits being issued, it's 40 now. Hunter success, if I recall right looking at the management plan, hunter success is low. It seems conflicts are low. It seems like permits keep going up. And my observation I feel like the population is declining. I really think we need to do something about the number of bears that we're killing, or that aren't there that should be on the Boulder Unit. I think the population there is gradually declining. I've been hunting them for nearly fifteen years now and I'm just a little concerned about if that population is being monitored and what the population studies seem to be indicating. I'd be interested in knowing how many collared females they have there and what those trends seem to be indicating. I did applaud one of the things in the management plan that suggested perhaps collaring a number of females on each unit so that their reproduction can be monitored and also that those collared females could be off limits to hunters. Because I really have a concern with the number of females that are taken especially on areas where the bear populations are low. I have no problems taking females on units where the bear population is high and maybe causing conflicts. But on a unit where the population seems to be declining and conflicts aren't there I think we need to protect those reproducing females. One of the

concerns that I would have if I were a spot-and-stalk hunter is there any way to protect them from the scenario of they go buy their tag over the counter and the next day the quota is reached and they're out of luck. There are no bears to hunt for the rest of the year. And they've bought a tag and haven't had the opportunity to fill that tag. That would be a concern if I were a spot-and-stalk hunter. I see also that on the Beaver Unit in particular, that's another unit I'm a little concerned with, but if they make the November hunts spot-and-stalk that does eliminate some of the opportunity for the hound hunters. It takes one month that they typically have had for hound hunting. And I'm wondering if that could be mitigated somewhat by extending the spring season. Not necessarily, in my opinion, really I'm a catch and release bear hunter. I don't care if I kill a bear but I like to work my dogs. And I would think the hunters on the Beaver Unit would like to have that opportunity, any opportunity that could help give them more opportunity to run their dogs, maybe extending the spring hunt or maybe giving them a little longer summer pursuit season or something like that to mitigate that situation where they're losing that November hunt. And I thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Steve Flinders: Thank you Carl, good points. Teresa does anybody in the region want to talk a little about the Boulder and number of collars. Or if any biologists here, I don't mean to put you on the spot.

Teresa Griffin: Our biologist for the boulders is absent tonight. He's very sick. He's actually got meningitis and he supposed to be lying in bed for the rest of the month. But we currently have four collars out on females on the Boulder. So we'll be monitoring those bears over the next several years. All the criteria seem to be in line on the Boulder. I can talk to Mr. Shakespeare individually on that. The average age of harvest for 2010 which is the most recent that we've got the teeth back, is 6.7. And this last year we killed just 29 percent female. So I can go into more depth with him on that.

Steve Flinders: That's perfect thank you. Any collared females been harvested there since you, on that study the last few years?

Teresa Griffin: I don't think so.

Doug Messerly: We had one mortality.

### **RAC discussion and Vote:**

Steve Flinders: K, thank you, that's all the comment cards I have. To paraphrase, mostly support. (Inaudible) watch what we do. Go ahead Mike.

Mike Staheli: I would like to make some motions on a few of these specific things. We talked about it a little bit before Steve and I think this is the proper time to do that.

Steve Flinders: Yeah, if there's a motion you want to tease out. If we want to discuss something up here and see what kind of support there is on the RAC to make some of these changes.

Mike Staheli: We have had some good suggestions from the audience and I think some of them deserve, in fact all of the do, I wanted to make a motion and discuss about extending the spring hunt. There's a lot of years like Mr. Shakespeare said, that you may only have a week, a week and a half because of the depth of the snow and everything. And I know a lot of guys last year that turned their tags back in because there was no opportunity there. And I think that I'd like to make a motion then that we extend



that spring hunt. And I would be acceptable to looking at the weather conditions and making this as on demand. But I would like to make a motion that we could extend that spring bear hunt two weeks into the second week in June.

Steve Flinders: Can I ask you to get more specific? Is that statewide? Is that in the region? Is that on a unit? What do you have in mind?

Mike Staheli: I would think on any unit that had the extended season. We extended the season by two to three days is all. Right? Five days, yeah.

Steve Flinders: So a motion on the table to extend the seasons in the Southern, on statewide on extended season units.

Mike Staheli: On extended season units.

Steve Flinders: To mid June?

Mike Staheli: Uh huh.

Brian Johnson: Can we discuss that motion?

Steve Flinders: Motion is on the table. Does anybody second that motion? Seconded by Layne. Now we can discuss that motion.

Brian Johnson: Perfect. I just don't, I think that we ought to, I'm just throwing this out there, I would like to see us do the two weeks on all the ones that are already extended and then extend all of the rest of them a week. I mean I just, the same conditions apply, I mean even these units that aren't problem units these guys put in for these tags and they may not have, I mean, that extra seven days is golden in June. It's a big deal if you're hunting bears. I've had the opportunity in this state to hunt bears and it's a wonderful opportunity and it's those last couple of days are really where it's the best. If we could extend, you know like you said, the ones that are already extended two weeks and then the rest of the state seven days I think that would be extremely beneficial for sportsman. And we've already got safety valves in place to change that if we start up harvesting too many females, if we start doing this, I mean Doug's already mentioned that we're not going to do something that hurts the resource. And we're already trying a lot of new stuff this year so let's . . . . I'm just throwing that out there.

Steve Flinders: Other discussion? Clair.

Clair Woodbury: I just have a question that maybe someone in the Division can answer. Why do we end it on the end of May or the first part of June? Is there a reason?

Doug Messerly: A couple of years ago we had, I believe it was Jordan Peterson that came and gave a presentation on bear management. And if you're familiar with recent history, recent being within the last ten years, the spring bear hunt was outlawed for several years. And it's only recently been brought back and it was brought back very cautiously with some very important safeguards. Some of the work that we've the published studies that have been done, analysis of our harvest data indicates that males come out early in the spring. And at some point when the females start emerging if you run the hunt into

that time frame you're female harvest goes way up. And we're right on the brink of that. The two weeks that we're talking about could be critical for the amount of female harvest that we may incur as a result of that. We can't guess the weather. We may have a real dry open spring next year and it may all be over by the first of June. We've had some snowed in winters the last couple of years and I understand that's where it's coming from but on average the dates that we've set and the time frames that have been established for ending these hunts is primarily for that reason. The concern is that as the females begin emerging from the den that we will substantially increase harvest of females. So that's the biological reason for ending the hunts when we do. It's not got to do with trying to limit hunters or limit their opportunity but there's a real significant issue with extending the season. Those units that have extended seasons now are extended with the thought that, when the idea was originally come up with was those units had high depredation loss for livestock. And so the idea was that we did want to reduce bear populations on those units. And so we're using that tool for that reason. But to do it statewide or to do it on every unit could impact those objectives that we've listed in the plan pretty heavily and the female harvest could go up significantly and away we go. We're making lots of changes this year. And it's an innovative new plan. And obviously we're implementing several different things that can get a little confusing and everybody wants their little piece of the pie, I understand. What I would ask is that we let enough new stuff go through that we have a chance to evaluate it before we go too much further. That's the other thing that may happen by extending seasons is we may complicate our ability to analyze what we've done in the past with known season dates. It changes the dynamic there

Steve Flinders: Thanks Doug. More discussion? Clair.

Clair Woodbury: Thanks Doug that answered my question. And looking at it in that way I don't think I could support that motion.

Mike Staheli: Steve, I'm looking at that motion and I would withdraw my motion because I would never want to do anything to hurt the resource. And that's, I hadn't looked at it in that aspect. I think there's some controls that maybe in the future we could look at as far as female sub quotas but like you said, this, there's a lot of changes this year. So if I can do that I would like to . . .

Steve Flinders: Yeah, you can do that. Motion, motion's off the table. Other motions, other discussion.

Mike Staheli: I have another one.

Steve Flinders: Try another one Mike.

Mike Staheli: I am quite concerned with this whole scenario. You know there's a lot of things going on with it and . . .

Steve Flinders: Hang on Mike. Clair is there confusion down there?

Clair Woodbury: I was just asking are you recanting that motion then?

Steve Flinders: Yeah the motion is recanted.

Clair Woodbury: Do we need a second to recant that motion?

Steve Flinders: Do you want to second it? It sounds like Clair's going to second it.

Clair Woodbury: Oh I'll second it, yeah. I'm just worried about . . .

Steve Flinders: Motions off the table. Looking for a motion. The other point the Division made is in light of the new black bear management plan there is room for additional harvest opportunity and that's the proposal before us tonight, without coming up with new ones of our own. More discussion? Other motions?

Mike Staheli: I have another motion, and that is on this 90 tags in 3 years, on La Sal and 90 tags on San Juan, I think that's excessive and I don't think that we have any controls in place to see to it that we don't harvest these females, these females with cubs. We could theoretically kill three bears with every one you shoot. I think a cautious approach is what we should go and I'd like to propose that we limit that to 10 on each unit, 10 a year for the next 3 years.

Steve Flinders: State that again. For LaSal and San Juan.

Mike Staheli: For La Sal and San Juan, these are the two that they have 30 each year for the next 3 years.

Steve Flinders: Spot-and-stalk?

Mike Staheli: Spot-and-stalk, yes. I'd like that to

Steve Flinders: Instead of 30 that would be 10.

Mike Staheli: Ten. My reasoning is to go at this a little more cautiously. There's a lot of changes in this new proclamation, this new plan and 90 tags in 3 years, that's, you can't recover from that very quickly.

Steve Flinders: Motion, motion by Mike. Anybody second that? They're a little hesitant being outside of the Southern Region would be my guess. Motion fails for lack of second. Other motions?

Mike Staheli: I have one more.

Steve Staheli: Rusty's got one. He may beat you to the punch. Go-ahead Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: I would like to make a motion to accept the recommendations of the Division on the bear, as presented.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Rusty to present the bear proclamation as presented, seconded by Sam. Other discussion?

Brian Johnson: I think that you had some other stuff you wanted to talk about before this vote, just out of respect.

Mike Staheli: Yeah, I did. There was, during the bear management committee they stated on these three harvest objectives there would be no hounds involved. Now we've got hounds involved on 2 of them. I'd like to see it go back to the original plan and keep harvest objective without hounds. I don't

understand why they more or less went back on their recommendation of the committee. The Anthro and the Nine Mile are mostly private ground and that's why they were put in the harvest objective. A dog cannot read a no trespassing sign. It's going to create more conflict, more problems than there is now. What it was put in place for was so those private landowners could take care of problem bear. We don't need hounds involved.

Steve Flinders: Good point. We have a motion and a second. More discussion relative to the motion? Go ahead Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I would just like to clarify the motion. If you look at the handout, the fall harvest objective on Nine Mile is no hounds and no bait.

Mike Staheli: I think that's been amended. There's been three of them out in the last while.

Layne Torgerson: Yeah, I mean the one I'm looking at right here that was handed out tonight.

Mike Staheli: Is that correct?

Steve Flinders: On Nine Mike, John isn't that correct?

Layne Torgerson: Fall harvest objective is over the counter, spot-and-stalk, no hounds, no bait.

John Shivik: Maybe I didn't make that, maybe I flubbed that earlier. But yes, there's the three of them, then the Wasatch Current Creek . . . The first is the spring harvest objective, and we've got any weapon, we've got hounds, no bait. The second is the Nine Mile, and again, that's a private land thing, fall harvest objective, no hounds, no bait. And our third, again, is the Beaver, fall harvest objective, no hounds, no bait. And the way that the plan is written in terms of the private land categories it's not a private lands as largely as much as anything nuisance that's driving that decision to go into the harvest objective. And what the plan says is that if there's a lot of, if there's, it's an over abundance of public land and it's not a suitable place for it. These units don't have an overabundance of the public land. There's a lot, for instance, I think in that Wasatch there's tribal lands, there's a lot of private lands in there and there's enough that it still fits well within the categories for the plan, to answer that question.

Steve Flinders: Great, nice points made. So the motion's still on the table to pass the recommendations as presented. Any other discussion?

Brian Johnson: Just a little discussion. Like I said, I'm just slightly concerned about the Wasatch Current Creek, Avintaquin Unit being the way that it's drawn up. I just, I just, I just feel that there's only a handful of archery people every unit, every time, so it's, you know, they made the comment that we're not taking that much from that many people but it's kind of a big deal if that's the unit you've been trying to put in for. I mean if you're still willing to take that risk, I just, I look at that and I kind of, I kind of get a little bit of, a little bit of heartburn with that, just with the opportunity. And I also think that there's a little bit of room, and I understand that there's a chance to start taking more females but I think that there's a little bit of room there to extend each unit, each bear unit, even if it's four, even if it's four or five days, just everything would end on the third. And I mean I'm not, I'm not a cattleman but if I was I think I would want everyone of those units extended to June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at least there just to try to help. I know I've asked Mack in the past how many cows is enough to be too many and he has always said one,

to lose to a bear. And so I, I would just . . . and I guess this is where there's already been a motion on the table, I didn't get a chance to discuss it before.

Steve Flinders: You can make an amendment.

Brian Johnson: I would like to make an amendment that we just extend those, extend those units statewide just to all end on the, at least, at least the 3<sup>rd</sup>. I'd like to extend them all. Excuse me; I'd like to make an amendment to the motion that we extend all bear hunting in the state 7 days

Steve Flinders: Anybody want to second that? Okay, let's see if we get a second first. Amendment fails. More discussion on the motion on the table?

Paul Briggs: No one is going to discuss the one that . . .

Steve Flinders: It's off the table. Well let's call for a vote. If anybody has any further discussion or any other amendments? It's been a good discussion. We've had good attendance. Those in favor of recommendations as proposed by the Division tonight for bears please vote in favor. Those against? One against.

**Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept Bear Recommendations for 2012. Sam Carpenter Seconded. Motion passed 9:1 (Brian Johnson opposed)**

Steve Flinders: How about we take a ten minutes recess.

Steve Flinders: Moving on in the agenda, the Falconry Guidebook and Rule. Jimmy Parrish did you bring us a bunch of controversy tonight Jimmy?

Jim Parrish: Me, never.

Steve Flinders: The floor is yours.

**Falconry Guidebook and Rule R657-20 1:17:02 to 1:32:34 of 1:42:11**  
**- Jim Parrish, Avian Coordinator**  
(See Attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Steve Flinders: Thanks Jimmie. Questions from the RAC? All you falconers? Sure Layne.

Layne Torgerson: How do you capture one of these birds? I mean that's quite, how do they go about capturing a wild bird?

Jim Parrish: Well the way I used to do it when I was flying birds is I'd get me a five pound bad of salt and try to put that on it's tail. That seemed to work the best. There's a variety of ways. We do allow take of, by class again, of the birds in their nest but not for the apprentice class. So they can locate a nest, actually go to the nest in the right time of year, we have, in the rule we have an age restriction, they can't

take them too young, well if they take them too old they're probably going to be allowed on them anyway. But, so they can take them out of the nest. There are a variety of ways to catch the birds after they're already on the wing and in the wild and out making a living for themselves. Usually there's some sort of bait involved. You can legally use just a common pigeon, a house sparrow and European starling, and now collared doves as bait to catch the birds. But when we were doing migration studies we would even go to the extent of putting up a blind and large, large sized high nets and as they come through on migration, and we'd have pigeons as bait, and they come in and make a pass at the pigeon and then we'd catch them in the nets. So there's a variety of ways that they can use to catch the birds.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Question Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Just curiosity here. I see in your presentation this Harris hawk picture it shows them with a bunch of rabbits.

Jim Parrish: Right.

Sam Carpenter: Do you have a season? Do they have to follow the general hunting seasons for that?

Jim Parrish: They do. They have to

Sam Carpenter: When they're training their hawk, how do you tell him, you know, don't get that cottontail it's out of season? How do you do that?

Jim Parrish: Well if they do they have to leave the cottontail lay if it's out of season. But most of them are pretty savvy on the seasons. And the way they train . . . well there is some training but basically you condition the bird to allow you to be present when they do what they're going to do anyway. So most of these birds have pretty much a natural search image for whatever their preferred prey is. And Harris hawks they take rabbits. So there's not a whole lot of training to teach them to catch rabbits, that's what they kind of do when they're out there on their own. It's more getting them used to your presence while you're out there doing it and that takes a lot of time. But if a bird does take something, like with waterfowl, if they take a species they're not supposed to take, once they launch and go after something they're going to make a kill on something and you have very little control over that. But when that happens the falconers are supposed to leave it lay and report that, and pick the bird up and go on and try for something else, if they do get something out of season or the wrong species.

Sam Carpenter: So we would rather waste it than let the hawk eat it?

Jim Parrish: Well, either that or take your chances if the CO is up there on the hill watching ya. But no that's what they are supposed to do.

Steve Flinders: Nothings wasted right. Any other questions?

Jim Parrish: That doesn't happen very often. It really doesn't.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Jimmy.

**Questions from the public:**

Steve Flinders: Any questions from the audience?

None

**Comments from the public:**

Steve Flinders: I don't have any comment cards.

None

**RAC discussion and vote:**

Steve Flinders: So we're ready for a motion, discussion. Layne.

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman, I make the motion that we accept Rule R657-20 as presented by the Division.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Layne, seconded by Dale. Any further discussion? Those in favor? Those against? That looked unanimous.

**Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept the Falconry Guidebook and Rule R657-20 as proposed. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Item number seven, introduction of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, North Fork of Corn Creek. Richard Hepworth.

**Introduction of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout to the North Fork of Corn Creek**

**-Richard Hepworth, Aquatic Biologist**

**1:37:25 to 1:38:27 of 1:42:11**

(See Attachment 3)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Steve Flinders: Thank you, I remember talking about this sometime back. Any questions for Richard? How does the county commission feel about this again?

Richard Hepworth: The county commission has fully supported it. It is in RDCC as we speak.

Steve Flinders: Yes sir, we're ready.

Clair Woodbury: I wanted to make a comment first, can I?

Steve Flinders: Sure.

Clair Woodbury: Okay. I called a friend of mine that fishes Corn Creek quite regular and asked him if he'd ever fished that North Fork. And he said, yeah that's a terrible place to fish you can't catch

anything. He was really excited about this.

**Questions from the public:**

None

**Comments from the public:**

None

**RAC discussion and vote:**

Clair Woodbury: I make a motion that we approve the item as presented.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Motion by Clair, seconded by Rusty. Sure.

Brian Johnson: When would they allow fishing after the transplant? Would it just be opened up right after?

Richard Hepworth: Yep. There would be no regulation changes. It's general regulations right now, four fish limit, and no restrictions on bait, and we won't make any changes to that. We've found in those transplants when we're doing these types of things it works just fine, we don't generally have any issues.

Brian Johnson: That's perfect, thank you.

Steve Flinders: Motion on the table to accept. Any other discussions? Those in favor? It looks unanimous.

**Clair Woodbury made the motion to accept the Introduction of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout to the North Fork of Corn Creek Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Other Business (contingent)**

**-Steve Flinders, Chairman**

(See Attachment 4)

Steve Flinders: Thank you Richard. The last item I have under other business was that schedule, RAC meeting schedule. Have you seen that? Did we get that out? The packets are out front. Good. In talking with Doug's staff we didn't, I didn't change much from last year. I thought we'd move the meeting we just had in Richfield to Cedar City. Other than that Beaver is the primary location with Richfield and Cedar City as fallbacks. There's not one there for Washington County, Kanab, Panguitch. I know we've moved around to some degree but it seems to strike a balance if we have a pattern where we don't have to keep guessing and maybe the public doesn't. But I don't know, not 100 percent Beaver but we're moving it around. Any feelings strongly one way or the other? Do you have heartburn with some of those?



Brian Johnson: So we are starting that next meeting at 5?

Steve Flinders: Yeah, I think that's going to be a big meeting. As you notice there are fewer meetings next year but we may have some longer meetings, especially with that combined big game meeting. If not I'd entertain a motion on that schedule. We'll maintain flexibility for the start times, I guess, as we see the agendas stack up if that's okay, but just locations, the Wildlife Board's already set the dates. But if we can let Doug's staff know that this is where we're going to be having the following meetings at that would be helpful.

Mike Staheli: I make the motion that we accept this schedule. That sounds good to me and we'll be notified later on times?

Steve Flinders: Yeah. Thank you. Seconded by Paul. Those in favor?

**Mike Staheli made the motion to accept the 2012 RAC meeting locations as presented. Paul Briggs seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Steve Flinders: Great. Motion to adjourn?

**Layne Torgerson made the motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.**

Steve Flinders: Thank you.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.**

Attachment 2

## UBA's Recommendations

From: **Ben Lowder** (benlowder@gmail.com)  
Sent: Tue 12/06/11 12:32 PM  
To: Brayden Richmond (BraydenRichmond@hotmail.com)

The Utah Bowmen's Association supports the DWR's efforts to provide an increased opportunity to hunt bears via harvest objective hunts. However, the current recommendation inadvertently eliminates an existing opportunity to hunt bear over bait on the Wasatch Mountains, Carrant Creek/Avintaquin unit. Therefore, we recommend implementing a spring limited entry, archery only hunt to the Wasatch Mountains, Carrant Creek/Avintaquin unit, in addition to the spring harvest objective hunt. The purpose of this recommendation is to continue to offer the opportunity to hunt over bait on the unit during the spring hunt. We recommend this hunt run concurrently with the DWR recommended harvest objective hunt as follows:

Hunt 1: Spring Harvest Objective Hunt (DWR Recommendation)

- Season: April 7 - June 3, or until harvest objective is met.
- Harvest objective: 7 bears (Change from DWR recommendation to allow for archery hunt.)
- Allow unlimited over-the-counter tags.
- Allow spot and stalk hunting methods.
- Allow hound hunting methods.
- Allow any legal weapon.
- Do not allow baiting.

Hunt 2: Spring Limited Entry, Archery Only Hunt

- Season: April 7 - June 3.
- Number of tags issued: 7 (target to kill 3 bears based on the 10 year average success rate of 40% per the 2010 Annual Black Bear Report.)
- Allow spot and stalk hunting methods.
- Allow baiting (exact same baiting regulations we currently have).
- Allow hound hunting methods.
- Allow only archery tackle.

This implementation of a combined limited entry hunt and harvest objective hunt would allow an increased opportunity for both hunters pursuing with hounds and hunters who prefer to hunt over bait with archery tackle. Allowing hound hunting via over the counter tags provides unlimited opportunity for houndsmen. At the same time, it potentially reduces the application pool for the limited entry tags and thus provides better draw odds for those who prefer to hunt with archery tackle over bait. The numbers represented above for the harvest objective and the number of tags issued on the limited entry hunt is based on the ten bear harvest objective that has been recommended. The split of a target of seven bears taken by harvest objective hunters and three bears taken by limited entry archery hunters is based on the split of method of take in the 2010 Annual Black Bear Report.

The Utah Bowmen's Association understands that there is potential for a houndsman to run his dogs off of an archers bait. However, this potential conflict is far better than the complete elimination of baiting opportunities. In addition, every unit in the state, with the exception of the Book Cliffs spot and stalk unit, currently allows

both the running of hounds and baiting to occur at the same time. Whether or not legal baits are allowed, the potential for a houndsman to establish an illegal bait to run their hounds from still exists. If you have hunters that have established legal baits on the unit, it is in their self-interest to help police the other hunters in the field that may be establishing illegal baits, and thus create a better self-policing hunt. On November 30 Jim Karpowitz, Director of the Division of Wildlife Resources, stated that due to future DWR funding and budget concerns, conservation officers are going to be difficult to find when you need them. Therefore, a better self-policing hunt is in the best interest of all parties involved.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to further discuss these recommendations, please feel free to contact me at [benlowder@gmail.com](mailto:benlowder@gmail.com) or (801)369-0117.

Thanks,

Ben Lowder  
VP Bowhunting  
Utah Bowmens Association  
(801)369-0117

## Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Introduction in North Fork Corn Creek

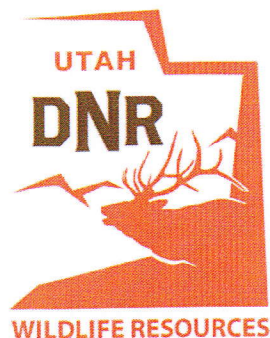
- N Fk Corn Creek contains no fish: natural barrier
- Small remnant population of BCT in Pole Creek
- Proposed transfer in summer 2012
  - Ensure BCT conservation and replicate remnant
  - Provide more fishing opportunities in Millard County
- Spring 2012: Improvement of natural barrier and construction of second barrier
- Full support from Millard County Commission (spring 2011)
- Submitted to RDCC

## **Introducing Native Bonneville Cutthroat Trout to the North Fork of Corn Creek**

Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) are the only trout native to the Bonneville Basin. Efforts to conserve and protect the subspecies include establishing self-sustaining populations in streams with adequate habitat. North Fork Corn Creek (tributary of Corn Creek near Kanosh, Millard County) currently contains no fish and is isolated from upstream movement of fish from Corn Creek by a natural barrier. A small remnant population of BCT occurs in nearby Pole Creek (tributary of Clear Creek, Sevier County). It is proposed that BCT be transferred from Pole Creek to North Fork Corn Creek in summer 2012 to provide another refuge for this population. This action is part of a joint effort by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Fishlake National Forest to help decrease threats to the subspecies, ensure long-term conservation, and preclude the listing of BCT under the Endangered Species Act. Also, sport fishing opportunities will be provided in North Fork Corn Creek where there are currently none. The proposed introduction was presented to the Millard County Commission in spring 2011 and received their full support. In addition, the project has been submitted for approval through the state Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC).



Bonneville cutthroat trout.



**Southeast Region Advisory Council  
Lion's Club  
San Juan County Fairgrounds  
901 E. Central  
Monticello, Utah 74525  
December 07, 2011 ⚡ 6:30 p.m.**

**Motion Summary**

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

**MOTION:** To accept the agenda and minutes as written.

**VOTE:** Passed unanimously

**Bear Recommendations for 2012**

**MOTION:** To accept as presented.

**VOTE:** Passed with 3 opposed and 6 in favor

**Amendment to the Bear Recommendations**

**MOTION:** This amendment is just for the San Juan and Las Sal unit. The amendment motion is that limited entry fall permit holders can hunt their season which is thru the 7<sup>th</sup> of September with hounds at which time starting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September thru the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, their permits will still be valid for the spot and stalk hunt with no hounds.

**VOTE:** Motion failed with 6 opposed and 3 in favor

**Falconry Guidebook and Rule R657-20**

**MOTION:** To accept as presented.

**VOTE:** Passed Unanimously

**RAC Members Present**

**Kevin Albrecht, USFS**  
**Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor**  
**Sue Bellagamba, Non-Consumptive**  
**Blair Eastman, Agriculture**  
**Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official**  
**Wayne Hoskisson, Non-Consumptive**  
**Derris Jones, Chairman**  
**Darrel Mecham, Sportsman**  
**Christine Micoz, At Large**  
**Travis Pehrson, Sportsman**  
**Charlie Tracy, Agriculture**

**RAC Members Absent**

**Seth Allred, At Large**  
**Todd Huntington, Vice Chairman**  
**Pamela Riddle, BLM**

**Public in Attendance**

**20**

1) **Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**  
**-Derris Jones, RAC chairman**

Derris Jones- For those that haven't been to RAC meetings recently or ever, I would like to explain how these meetings are going to be run. First, the Division will present a recommendation that they feel comfortable with as far as how, when and why we are going to be harvesting bears and using Falcons. Once that presentation is presented, the RAC will have an opportunity to ask questions. These questions are going to be for clarification so that the RAC can understand better what the Division is presenting as well as clarification on where the Division wants to go on management. After the RAC has an opportunity for questions I will open it up to the public for questions and questions only. The purpose for the questions is the same as the RAC. It is to clarify what the Division is presenting and why they are presenting it in the way they are. After the question period, anybody who wants to make a comment or suggest an alternative to what the Division recommendation is, I ask that you fill out a yellow card and bring it up to me and at that point I will go through the cards as I receive them and you will all have an opportunity to address the RAC with your recommendations and comments. At that point, once we have gone through all of the cards, we will close the period to public input and we will go back to the RAC. The RAC will discuss not only the Division recommendations but the comments provided by the public and hopefully we will pass a motion and take the motion back to the Wildlife Board. We have 2 action items tonight, the bear recommendations and the Falconry Guidebook.

2) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**  
**-Derris Jones, RAC Chairman**

Derris Jones- Are there any comments or concerns about the minutes from last month? I will entertain a motion to approve the minutes from last month.

Blair Eastman- I'll move that we accept the minutes as is.

Kevin Albrecht- I second the motion.

Derris Jones- All those in favor?  
Any opposed?

The vote was unanimously in favor on accepting the minutes as is.

Derris Jones- I will entertain a motion to approve the agenda as well.

Blair Eastman- I move that we accept the agenda.

Kevin Albrecht- I second the motion.

Derris Jones- All those in favor?

Any opposed?



The vote was unanimously in favor of accepting the agenda.

3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update**  
**-Derris Jones, RAC Chairman**

Derris Jones- Usually we have a Wildlife Board Member give us an update on what occurred at the last meeting of the Wildlife Board. The Wildlife Board met last November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>. On November 30<sup>th</sup> they had a work session where they really don't decide anything. It is a public meeting but no hard and fast decisions are made at the work sessions. They did discuss a proposal to request that the Division take back to the RACs. They want 2 alternative proposals on the buck doe ratios for the Mule Deer Management plan. What they hope is maybe something a little bit more flexible than the rigid 18-25 bucks per 100 does. This is a proposal that will come back to the RAC for review, and if whatever the RAC approves or recommends, there is a possibility that they may have to modify the deer management plan before the change can actually occur. On the December 1 meeting, the Director gave an update and mentioned there would be a fawn mortality study on the Monroe deer unit. There are several units in the state that have an adult survivability study going on. This will be a more intense look at fawn mortality and what is causing it. It is going to be tied specifically to the Monroe and it sounds like it is going to be a multi-unit study, and hopefully there will be some pretty good stuff come out of it. The Division just went through a legislative audit. They supported the conservation permit program and they made a recommendation to the Division to look at the CWMU ratio of public and private permits. The audit had multiple recommendations for the hatchery system, which are being implemented immediately. Walk in access program lost one million dollars in funding for this coming fiscal year. It is unclear if we are going to be cutting back on the number of acres that will be in the access program or what. With a loss of funding on the Walk in access and the loss of federal dollars through PR and Johnson money, the Division announced they will be seeking license fee increase or the support for license fee increase for 2013. On the action item about bucks, bulls, once in a lifetime guidebook, there was a lot of discussion on our Nine Mile Range Creek unit, whether it should go any bull or limited entry. There was a lot of discussion by archers to allow archers to hunt statewide instead of unit by unit. There is a lot of discussion on the program that the Northern regions had on the bucks and bulls combination hunt. Mike King, a Board Member from SE Utah requested that on the Nine Mile any bull recommendation, that data be collected so it can be compared to the system we have had with the limited entry, so we can compare the two and see which is working better for management objectives on that herd unit. The Director suggested that Law Enforcement write an action plan to address the trespass concern with the increased number of hunters that will be on the unit with a lot of private land. With those discussions, the Board passed the Division recommendations as presented. The Division recommendation included a change in the NE region late archery boundary and also included the Willard Peak goat season change. CWMU permit numbers passed unanimously. The Alton CWMU

requested 1 in 5 on a management hunt, The Division's recommendation was a 1 and 3, the board split the difference and gave Alton a 1 in 4. Landowner permit numbers passed 5 to 1 with a variance for the Diamond Mountain Landowner Association. Concerning the conservation permit audit, all organizations were in compliance. CSI Safari Club International and Sportsmen for Fishing and Wildlife returned more dollars than they were required to under the rule.

**4) Regional Update (Informational)  
-Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor**

Bill Bates- We are getting into the time of year of report writing and finishing up with wildlife viewing opportunities. The Wildlife section has a lot going on with surveys, and is also gearing up for some capture opportunities. There is going to be a Burbot Bash if anyone is interested. It will be the end of January, if you would like to go and help catch a lot of Burbot. I hear they are really good eating and we would like to get as many out of the system as we can. It is an introduced species we would like to try and reduce the numbers. Ice is starting to form on mountain waters. I know Scofield had people fishing on it today. The ice is about 4 ½ inches thick. Brent has been busy working on a You Tube video on deer and sheep. He had the mule deer viewing day up by Nash Wash and got a lot of good video that will be available for you to look at. There are some pretty good DWR videos on You Tube if you ever get the chance to take a look. Brent also had his big horn sheep viewing up at Green River last weekend and they had about 50 people show up and they all saw quite a few different sheep. They had a couple of rams that butted heads. The mule deer watch didn't turn out as well. We only had 2 people show up. Law Enforcement has been really busy with a lot of investigations. There has been poaching in San Juan County, where they found a couple of bucks that had been shot and killed. I think J. might have a couple of leads on those.

J. Shirley- No leads, but we do have information back here if anyone wants to read it.

Bill Bates- We have been doing some winter range patrols that's where we found these deer. Somebody called them in.

J. Shirley- We have had 14 illegal kills in our part of the region down here and we have made cases on half of those.

Bill Bates- It has been a busy fall for Law Enforcement. They have done really well. The Habitat section has been finishing up a few of their projects. We met not long ago and I think we talked about most all of this last time. At the Hatt Ranch, they have had the excavator pull the Tamarisk plants out by the roots. Sue, do you have any indication about whether that is more effective than cutting and spraying?

Sue Bellagamba- I don't know, sorry.

Bill Bates- Ok, we will still monitor that to see. In most places with the Tamarisk, we just cut it off and spray it. If you spray it when it's freshly cut, that supposedly kills the roots. Otherwise it will re-sprout. If you have driven down Hwy 124, The Hatt Ranch looks just

beautiful compared to how it used to. We are also working on Frenchmen's WMA and are heading down towards the Chaffin Ranch now. The Wildlife section has been busy doing bighorn sheep surveys. You can talk to Justin afterwards. The count was down on the North San Rafael. We will probably come in and be talking about permit reductions on that area. I think they counted about 86 sheep and back in 2001 it was 276. It is down quite a bit. The South San Rafael on the other hand, was about the same, maybe even bit a little higher than the last survey. It's a little bit down from over 4 years ago, but it is looking better. We are going to do a capture project with bighorn sheep next week. I guess January is when we will be catching them on the San Rafael. We are going to catch them and move them up towards Jack Creek. We will be replacing some radio collars on bison and we also have the deer study capture project going on in January. We have also implemented our survey on winter conditions and severity. If anyone is interested in receiving those, we could send it to you every week. They monitor snow depth, temperatures and on road kill deer, we measure the fat on the briquet to have some kind of indication of health. That will play into the whole winter policy for feeding deer. I will open up for questions, but for those in the audience, the reason we are holding our meeting here tonight is because a little over a year ago, we held our open house in Blanding and there was a suggestion that we bring the meeting on bears down here and last year, the logistics didn't work out, so that is why we are here this time. Hopefully, this will give everyone a chance to voice their concerns. Derris, at the end of the meeting, we could talk about taking the meeting to other places in the region and see what the other RAC members think.

Are there any questions? Thanks!

**5) Bear Recommendations for 2012 (Action)  
-John Shivik, Game Mammals Coordinator**

Bill Bates- On the Nine Mile, you talked about the regular spring hunt, where you can use hounds and bait, and then the fall hunt. What happens from the end of August up to October 6<sup>th</sup>?

John Shivik- It's going to be the regular fall limited entry hunt from August 25<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> when it starts again as a harvest objective.

Derris Jones- Thanks John. Does the RAC have any questions?

Derris Jones- On the 2 units, you are doing the genetic sampling to determine population shifts on the hair samples. Are you are taking that and extrapolating statewide from those units, or are you just using that data for those 2 particular units?

John Shivik- We use the data in different ways. One way is extrapolation to other units in that region, and the other way is extrapolation from each region to the state.

Travis Pehrson- What was the reason behind shortening the fall hunts in the La Sals and on the San Juan?

John Shivik- We are trying to balance competing interests and different desires. On prime units, we try to divide the seasons, so we can give archers a little more time to be alone without interference by hounds and houndsmen.

Travis Pehrson- Why don't you do it to the rest of the state?

John Shivik- Again, it is one of those unique things where we get more pressure there and we get more complaints there than we have in other places and that has led to us making more effort there.

Justin Shannon- On the Manti and the Nine Mile, I have heard the same complaints from elk hunters about archery hunters. In those areas, we figured we would be more surgical instead of throwing a blanket over the entire state. Some units have more conflicts than others.

Travis Pehrson- The LaSals and San Juan have the most sought out bear tags. You are reducing the amount of time they have to harvest a bear.

Justin Shannon- Those are fair arguments. The other argument is that the San Juan is also our most coveted trophy elk unit in the state and we have heard complaints from them as well.

Travis Pehrson- Can you keep it the same, and maybe stop hounds at that time?

Justin Shannon- That's an option. The hounds were the conflict. That is what we keep hearing complaints about.

Derris Jones- Any other questions from the RAC? Any questions from the public?

Scott Watson- Do you have any idea how many bears you have down here? Is there an estimate on the San Juan and La Sals? I see a lot of bears on the mountain.

Travis Pehrson- Scott, could you tell us who you work for and how long you spend on the mountain?

Scott Watson- I am representing myself tonight, but I do work for the Forest Service and I spend 200 hours a month on the mountain and I am seeing a lot of bears. I don't know how it was before I showed up 3 years ago, but on the La Sals, it's like Yellowstone on some days. I can drive down the road and there are bears on the road. I have pictures of bears up here 200 yards from a camp ground and some bears are almost as tall as I am.

Derris Jones- Justin, do you have estimates on your populations?

Justin Shannon- To be honest, I don't know, but according to the plan, we base it from the numbers of adult males and the percent of the females in the harvest. When the DNA study progresses a little bit more, we will have better information.

Scott Watson- Do you know what the success rate is for your fall hunt?

Justin Shannon- 4 out of 7 on the La Sals.

Bill Bates- Scott, I can add something here. On the first bear management plan we wrote, we tried to come up with a ball park estimate for the number of bears in the different units in the state, and what we did was refer to some radio collar studies on the La Sals and Book Cliffs and one up in Hobble Creek in the Provo-Springville area. We used those as estimates of low, medium and high density bear population. We came up with a rough estimate of the number of bears on the La Sals to be around 300, but that is minus a few and plus a lot. It is really hard to come up with an exact number and that is why they went to these management objectives that indicate the trend.

Scott Watson- I understand that bears are hard to count.

Derris Jones- Any other questions from the public?

Guy Webster- I didn't see in the presentation what the total number of tags you are proposing for 2012?

John Shivik- We have summarized it by putting the total number of limited entry tags at 494, but then you can add in spot and stalk permits. For instance, there is another 30 there on the La Sal and San Juan, so you can add another 60 to that. We don't have a number for the quotas of course, because we don't know how many people are going to show up.

Bill Bates- John, will you have an expected harvest for next year that you could compare to last year?

John Shivik- That is really hard. We have some other tools. We have harvest objectives, and spot and stalk hunts. There are a lot of variables, so I would hesitate to give you a number.

Scott Watson- Financially speaking, how much money would spot and stalk hunting be, compared to limited entry?

Bill Bates- I would guess they would be the same, because the legislature hasn't approved any other fees.

Casey Black- Did I understand that we don't know exactly how many bear we have in the San Juan Elk Ridge? Can we go to a harvest objective opposed to a spot and stalk?

Justin Shannon- As far as the plan goes, it outlines 3 areas that we could have harvest objective, and the La Sals and San Juan didn't fit those molds. It is the Nine Mile area.

Casey Black- What qualifies them to be a harvest objective?

Justin Shannon- It is a hunt strategy. It doesn't lack anything except knowledge on our part. We don't know how harvest objectives are going to work and so using that on 2 of our really good bear units, we figured we would employ a different method. We are

testing harvest objective in 3 areas of the state and we will gain some knowledge from there to see whether we like it or not.

John Shivik- Within the plan, it talks about harvest objective units on areas where one of them can't be dominated by public land. The units that have harvest objective have to be driven by nuisance complaints. We looked at numbers from the Wasatch and tribal lands and private holdings and things. There is still a lot of private land which affects how many people can get in the woods at the same time. The LaSals and San Juan don't fit that mold.

Casey Black- So the more private land then the fewer amount of people there will be, so you can have a harvest objective?

John Shivik- The plan gives us those guide lines that says if it is dominated by public land, then we don't want to use a harvest objective on it.

Casey Black- So if there is more public land, why do you not want harvest objective? Is it because there will be too many people?

John Shivik- Yes, the biggest concern is over-shooting our quota. There is a time gap between harvesting a bear and having to report that bear and if we have an area where there are lots and lots people out on a Friday, they can over-shoot the quota by 2, 3 or 4 times before all of the bears are even reported. It is a powerful tool but we have to be careful with it.

Casey Black- So with the harvest objective, you are supposed to call in every day and see what the count is?

John Shivik- Yes, you have a 48 hour window to turn it in.

Casey Black- You said it would be over shot 2 or 3 times, if we have a quota of 30 bear and they don't report it for 2 days, do you really think we could take an extra 10 bears in that 48 hours?

John Shivik- The plan will be up to the Board to decide. The plan has put those side boards on it.

Casey Black- So I guess my question is, would the Board think about changing this or making a different recommendation? Can the Elk Ridge-San Juan be split into 2 units? Maybe have a harvest objective on Elk Ridge and have a spot and stalk on San Juan?

Justin Shannon- Yes, the RAC can recommend what ever they would like to the Wildlife Board. We want to test these out where there is a lot of private land because if we can't make harvest objective work on a lot of private land then we shouldn't kid ourselves and think it is going to work on public land. My plea would be, let's see how it works the way we pitched it.

Lloyd Nielsen, Sun Rise Outfitting- Does the Division want to lower the bear population, keep it the same or raise it?

John Shivik- What we want to do is balance all of the resources there.

Lloyd Nielsen- Do you want the bear population where it's at, raise it, what does the Division want? Higher or lower?

John Shivik- We are thinking of this again in terms of those ratios, we want to moderate our harvest objectives. Populations, we can't give you a good estimate of how many bears are out there, and we can't tell you if we are harvesting our bears heavily or lightly?

Lloyd Nielsen- How can we know if we are harvesting bears heavily or light if we don't know what the population is?

John Shivik- That is the essence of watching the harvest ratios of females. If we are getting too many females, then the plan will kick us into backing off permits. If we get into a unit that should be harvested moderately or light, and we get a bunch of females in the harvest, then we will back off on those permits. There are side boards on the plan to keep us from going too far one way or another.

Lloyd Nielsen- Also, why go to a draw, when the opportunity is there?

Justin Shannon- Again, these are limited entry units and that's the only way we have ever managed bears in the past. This plan does open up the door for a lot more opportunity. With harvest objective and spot and stalk, we have more tags today than we have had in the history of bear management, so that does equate more opportunity.

Dean Lyman- I am pretty ignorant to a lot of this stuff and I am learning a whole bunch this evening. I understand they don't want a couple of bears to go over the harvest objective. The harvest objective has worked on lions on public land. What's the difference between harvest objective on the bears or lions?

Justin Shannon- With limited entry, there is a set amount of permits 20 permits. You can't possibly kill more than 20 bears or 20 lions. With harvest objective, it is a quota, so, say we wanted 10 bears killed, the problem is there is more than 10 hunters out there. The potential to go over the quota is real on a harvest objective unit, whereas with limited entry, we don't have that problem. Does that help?

Dean Lyman- No, because it is the same with lions as it is with bears.

Travis Pehrson- Our lions are the same way right now. Both are harvest objective.

Bill Bates- There is one difference with bears. I did a study where I looked at when bears were harvested, and the vast majority of bears are killed during the last week of the spring season. The reason is, you have poor access in April and the sows are basically in their dens until about the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, when they start moving around. Then, all of a sudden, you start getting bears moving around during the Memorial Day weekend and it

seems like over 70% of the bears are killed that last week. If you have 100 hunters out there on Memorial Day weekend, it would be really easy to over-shoot that quota. There is no data right now to know, so that is why we are going with a conservative approach to test it out, and then we will go from there.

Casey Black- So Bill, you said the last week of the spring season is when most of the bear have been taken. So we are talking October for harvest objective, it really wouldn't matter. Would it?

Bill Bates- Well, let's see what John and Justin have to say on that.

John Shivik- Again, these are valid points and valid questions. These are things that have been part of the process in making the best recommendations we can. With bears, it is more complicated. You have a shorter time than with lions, so that's what really drives it. Another thing is with the spring hunt, you have a short period of time and a lot of people out, because they need to get out there in that time.

Casey Black- We keep jumping back to spring. It is strictly October.

John Shivik- I think biologically over the whole year, we have got them denning and we have winter snows, late springs, early winters and a lot of other factors that can give people a lot more pressure in terms of harvesting bear.

Bill Bates- The principle is actually the same, because if you have a lot of people looking to go out and hunt just before they think the quota is going to be filled, we just have no way of controlling how many that will be.

Casey Black- In your experience with lions, we get down to 2 permits, and these people with harvest objective tags want to fill their tags. How often do you go over that quota?

Bill Bates- We do go over.

Casey Black- Would the harvest be substantially over quota? If we went over 5 of the 30 this year, we could cut it back a little the following year.

Guy Webster- In this day and age, why don't we change 48 hours to 12 hours? There is nowhere in this state where you can't get cell phone service within 12 hours. The harvest could be documented much earlier than was once the case. Is there anything from the legislative that says you have to do it in 48 hours?

Kevin Bunnell- There isn't anything in the statute or rule that dictates the 48 hours. A lot of it is probably tradition, but we have talked about it in the past. There has been resistance from people because of the getting down and getting their harvest counted. It's not just a bear that was killed; it's the sex, age and all of those other things that go into the mix, especially now with female sub quotas; not just that a bear is killed, but what is the sex of the bear, and that needs to be confirmed by one of our folks checking them in. On the question going back to the difference between bears and lions, the difference is susceptibility to harvest. The lion harvest is driven by snow in the winter. There are very



few lions harvested on dry ground. Almost all of the bears are harvested on dry ground. They are more susceptible to hounds during that time of year. With lions, the harvest is determined by snow. You don't have a dynamic like that with bears, and that becomes self limiting for lions.

Casey Black- We are talking about harvest objective in the month of October.

Kevin Bunnell- Ok, I misunderstood that. Bottom line, we were limited to 3 and the 3 we chose for specific reasons.

Dean Lyman- What this gentleman mentioned here about the 12 hours, it shuts down the quota. It has nothing to do with the sex of the animal or anything else. It's so the people that are hunting can call in for the quota and find out if it's closed. The sex of that animal can be turned in anytime.

Kevin Bunnell- That's on a straight quota unit, but some of the units have a female sub quota as well. There are a lot of ways of doing this, and that's what the public process is all about. We make our recommendations and take your input and try to make sense of all of it. That's what we are here for.

Lloyd Nielsen, Sun Rise Outfitting- If you guys are so scared of over-harvesting these bears, doesn't that tell you that there is way too many bears?

Derris Jones- Let's keep it to questions right now, then we will get to comments.

Justin Shannon- The San Juan and LaSals are moderate target areas, which means we are trying to keep things stable. If you look at the data over the past several years there is room to increase bear harvest with both the number of bears and the percent of females in the harvest. If you look at the side boards on this plan, where moderate is 30-40% female in the harvest, and you look at the harvest history on these units, we have harvested around 31-32% females. So, can we increase the harvest. That's why we implemented spot and stalk on these units to provide a little bit more opportunity, and if we harvest the females a little bit more, it's ok, because our own data suggests that we have room to do so.

Darrel Mecham- So if you were going to have a harvest objective in the fall, you would need to reduce your tags or you may have a 30 bear kill in the fall if you have a whole bunch of people hunting the La Sals or the San Juan. No? Am I wrong?

Justin Shannon- Just to clarify, they are two different things, right now we have 30 spot and stalk permits and how much harvest we are going to have, I don't know. We haven't done it in Utah. Colorado says their spot and stalk hunts have about a 12% success rate.

Darrel Mecham- That's if you're lucky. If you increase your hunters, 10 fold or 20 fold, you are going to kill more bear.

Justin Shannon- I guess where the clarification needs to be is just because we have 30 spot and stalk hunters doesn't mean if we went harvest objective that our quota would be 30, it would probably be lower than that.

Colby Christensen- I am curious and I know there is a few of us that are also curious, is there any statistics, information or facts that the way a high density population of bears effects the deer population?

John Shivik- There have been a number of studies done on bears and bear effects on deer. I can think of 3 off hand, including 1 in Utah, that 1 out of every 25 of the fawns killed was by bear. Other studies, 3%, 5% so it tends to be in terms of fawn take relative to other animals out there. The bear effects are really tiny compared to coyotes and cougars.

Casey Black- We have said we don't know how many bear we have, correct?

Bill Bates- Well, we have an educated guess based on radio telemetry studies.

Casey Black- How did you arrive at your educated guess?

John Shivik- Modern wildlife management is unsettling in a lot of ways to a lot of people, but it is very difficult to estimate with any kind of precision the numbers of animals on the landscape. What we are a lot better at is measuring things that indicate the number of animals on the landscape based on trends. That's why the genetic study is really interesting because we are measuring the trend up or the trend down. That is something we measure with reliability and we know from the sex ratios if the population is going to go up or down. As a Wildlife Manager I am ok that we don't know exactly how many animals are out there, because we have this other information that still allows us to keep our population whatever it is within certain target levels.

Casey Black- You said that bear kill 1 in 25 fawns or roughly 3%... for instance, if we have Elk Ridge, and we have a higher density of bear there than elsewhere and we have a low density of deer, would a high density of bear have a bigger impact on the deer because there is not as many? Would there be a reason to increase the bear tags on Elk Ridge?

Justin Shannon- It tough to measure, clearly there is a low density of deer on Elk Ridge and a high density of bears, is that cause and effect? I don't know, and again, we are getting aggressive with bears on the San Juan unit and we will have close to 80 tags this year.

Casey Black- From what you just said to me, we have high bear and low deer, and can't we experiment one year on Elk Ridge? Just take a small unit and experiment and see what happens? I am not saying to get rid of the bear, we all enjoy bear, we love to see bear, but let's have an experiment and see what happens and change it from one year to the next. You could strictly have a harvest objective and spot and stalk for the month of October. On Elk Ridge, if you have 30 spot and stalk tags, you are probably not going to harvest 30 bear. You said Colorado has a success rate of 12%. What you are expecting to harvest out of spot and stalk?

Justin Shannon- Let me be clear. I also said I don't know. That is the neighboring state and that is the closest data we have, we have never done this. If you think we need to be more aggressive by all means, make a recommendation to the RAC. This is just a start and we want to look at it for 3 years and see where it goes.

Derris Jones- Casey, let's stay with questions right now.

Guy Webster- What is the percentage of the spot and stalk on the Book Cliffs?

John Shivik- 5 harvested out of 7.

Derris Jones- Are there any other questions from the public?

Calvin Black- How did you come up with the dates of October 6 – October 29<sup>th</sup> on this spot and stalk?

Justin Shannon- It is more of a social issue. We wanted to give people in the field deer hunting or elk hunting the opportunity to get one of these tags and spot and stalk a bear while they are out and about. This is a time when we don't have any other bear hunts going on and we thought it would mesh well with the deer and elk hunts on these units.

Calvin Black- But that is only 23 days. We hunt cow elk for 5 months, right? Why can't we hunt spot and stalk in the month of September as well?

Justin Shannon- Again, these are all good questions.

Calvin Black- That's when the acorns are coming on around the later part of August but that would be more optimal and if you shot 30 bear in the spot and stalk, would you be nervous?

Justin Shannon- I don't think under the current strategy we would. We are just over 50% with dogs, I can't imagine being above that without dogs.

Calvin Black- How much pressure do you get from the environmentalists on these bear hunts?

Justin Shannon- I don't know.

Calvin Black- How about the houndsmen? I almost get the impression that bear and lion are the elite, and they are sacred and on the top of the pedestal of animals to hunt and we make every effort in the world to make sure those numbers are high. Why do you want to hunt and kill more bears in the Beaver unit?

John Shivik- Harvest objective on the Beaver has a female sub quota, so it's the total number of bears with 10 and a female quota of 4. It's not about killing more female bears, it's about adjusting that percentage so you get 4 females or you get the 10 total bears.

Calvin Black- Do you ever look at the terrain and how to manage bears? I would suggest because the Elk Ridge unit is not surrounded by any agriculture lands there is only one section out there that is farmed, all of the winter range come off of the Elk Ridge, I would like to make a comment later.

John Shivik- Just a follow up number for the Book Cliffs spot and stalk, 3 out of 7 were harvested.

Derris Jones- Any other questions from the public?  
Comments?

Lloyd Nielsen, Sun Rise Outfitters- I think you have heard from the public and the public input is what we would like. What I would suggest is we take and put a split season down here on the San Juan. You have the first season just like it was at draw with however many bears you want filled as a quota. The second season is your fall season and could go to harvest objective for the bears that are not filled. We need to fill some of these bear tags and then not have any hounds on the mountain in the fall to compete with the deer, elk and the archery hunters and all of the other hunters up there. If you want 80 bears taken off the San Juan, which I think we need, if you draw 80 tags and then what is left over or not filled can be filled in the fall. While hunting bears, the hunters must use the same hunting method that is lawful for big game, such as archery, muzzleloader or rifle, so these poor game wardens don't chase down a rifle hunter during archery season.

Derris Jones- The fall spot and stalk will be no hounds, no bait and then you want the fall spot and stalk to start in August with the archery hunt?

Lloyd Nielsen- I have known people that have waited 19 years to draw a tag and they get 10 days. That don't seem right to me.

Scott Watson- I would like to say I don't want to see the bears wiped out. I like seeing them out there. We don't need to deplete the bear population down to nothing. I have to agree with Lloyd that we are getting a lot of conflicts in the fall with people running dogs. There is only 5 permits on here, but in my experience, some of these guys chase dogs the whole time they can chase, and they run the dogs the whole time, and they tree a bear 2 or 3 times a day and they don't take them. They are not interested in taking bears, and we are not doing any service for these guys that put in 19-20 years. I know a lot of these bear hunters put in for quite a few years on Elk Ridge and on these other hunts too, but we are not doing a service to the guys that really put in a lot of time for their deer and elk hunts. I get a lot of comments about dogs and I hear dogs out there in the fall during the archery hunt and I know guys who are pretty upset. We give opportunities in the spring and in the summer for pursuits. Let's look at doing a system in the fall with the spot and stalk.

Casey Black- Thank you for your time. I know it's not easy being here. I would like the RAC to consider making a change in the San Juan Elk Ridge unit to split it into two units going to a harvest objective on both if not mainly on Elk Ridge, using Elk Ridge as an

experiment in taking a few more bears and see if the numbers still sustain themselves and if it would help with the deer population. Thank you.

Tony Bettis, Utah Houndsmen Association- We would like you guys to consider leaving the fall hunt as it is. This is a premium bear unit and two of the premium bear units in the state are the La Sal and San Juan. I have got to go with what Lloyd said. I agree that you are putting in for 15 years to draw an elk tag. We are putting in for 12. Who is to say one justifies one tag over the next. We would like to see it stay until the 30<sup>th</sup> of September or at least to the 20<sup>th</sup>. The other thing we would like you to do is because this is a first time deal on the spot and stalk, so we don't over harvest the bears and take too many. We would like to see it start out at 10, 15 and 20.

Let's build into it instead of killing everything off. We want to see the bears stay and continue enjoying them.

Calvin Black- I appreciate the fact that you are looking at some different things on this bear hunt, especially the spot and stalk. I would suggest that you look at additional time, such as August and September as well. I also think you need to look at the harvest objective as well. I would suggest the Division look at the Elk Ridge unit as a potential study area in relation to lion and bear predation on the deer. You do not have any private land around the Elk Ridge units, so there shouldn't be anyone growling about deer and elk on their lands and fields. Guy, how many tags did we have last year on Elk Ridge?

Guy Wallace- 50 total

Calvin Black- It has been that way for quite a few years.

Guy Wallace- No, it has gone from 20 to 30 about 5 years ago or a little longer than that. Then 30, then 40, then last year there were 50 tags.

Calvin Black- I think it would be an excellent opportunity to do a study. We always like studies to verify things. I think there should be an increase of bear and lion permits and see what happens to the deer herd. I question that a bear only takes 1 out of 25 fawns.

Guy Webster- I represent myself and I think all of you guys have been emailed a copy. We are concerned about the vast increase in the bear permits issued. In 2010 there were 372. That was a 20 year high. We are 45% of the proposed increase on that. That is way too many. This region recommends that we have no more than 10 spot and stalk on either the La Sals or San Juan. There is a conflict with the elk hunters with San Juan Elk Ridge premium tags. It is always listed as up to September 30<sup>th</sup>, and that is an issue and we should amend to August 5<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup> to try and reduce that conflict. With the Nine Mile unit harvest objective conservation tag, you should go ahead and make that a premium tag so hunters can hunt all 3 seasons. Let's go moderate, 45% increase in tags is just way too many.

Travis Pehrson- Reads statement from the Utah Bowmen's Association, written by Vice President, Ben Lowder and available from [benlowder@gmail.com](mailto:benlowder@gmail.com) or 801-369-0117.

Derris Jones- Let's open it up to the RAC for discussion. Looks like we have an interest for increasing permits, decreasing permits, interest in splitting San Juan unit and making Elk Ridge a study area and changing the fall dates some as late as the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, some as early as the 10<sup>th</sup> of September to eliminate the conflict with limited entry elk hunters and a request for an archery only, and a harvest objective fall hunt on the San Juan and a spring limited entry.

Kevin Albrecht- On the Manti South bear unit, will the extended season be eliminated?

Justin Shannon- Based on the language in the current plan, it states we will have season extensions in the spring, if there is high depredation or bear nuisance conflicts. The South Manti fell out on that. It won't be in there. The North Manti does have a spring extension because harvest by wildlife services exceeded that of sportsmen.

Kevin Albrecht- I appreciate all of the effort that went into the management plan and I think there are some great tools in there. One thing on the South Manti, it is a unique unit so maybe some of its issues are not addressed in the plan and those are 6 main access routes from the Ferron-Price side to the South Manti bear unit. Of those 6 access points, Millers Flat, Joe's Valley, Cottonwood, Ferron Canyon, and Lake Canyon have seasonal closure gates, and in the last 2 years they haven't opened until about the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. The forest service closes these because of funding. They are clay based roads that have gravel on top and so when they dry out it saves the forest service a large percentage of money so they don't have to do road service maintenance every year, but we do hear a lot of complaints from the houndsmen that those gates are closed. If the extension is lost, I believe a lot of that harvest will be lost. A unique thing with the La Sal Manti is from the Ferron Price district, you have 44,000 sheep and with that if you eliminate that extension, you will see a lot of harvest by wildlife services rather than hunters. I would like to recommend that extension on the South Manti.

Justin Shannon- I pulled some numbers for the RAC, just how much harvest do we get during that last week on the South Manti during the last 4 years we have had this. Sixteen bears have been killed on the South Manti, 5 of which have come in the last week. It is about 30 bears harvested last year. This spring and last spring, we had more snow, and we killed 7 bears, 4 of which were killed in the last week of the season extension.

Kevin Albrecht- When you listen to all of this and you have your fall conflict with hunters, hounds and elk tags... have you ever thought about maybe extending your spring hunt to the end of June and eliminating your summer problems with everyone running the mountains to give the bears a rest. Put some of your pressure back in the spring because your female harvest has gone up every year. Pull some of your pressure back to the spring when you don't have your game hunters out there and then work something out with the spot and stalk. You shouldn't be able to run your hounds year around. Maybe the bears need a time out.

Justin Shannon- The reason we haven't gone until the end of June on that hunt is because we do have data that every week we extend these hunts starting the end of May or June, the percent of the female harvest increases substantially.

Kevin Albrecht- What is substantially, because you are increasing it now.

Justin Shannon- There was a graph shown at the last Wildlife Board meeting.

Bill Bates- The difference is, under the old plan we had a target of less than 40% of females in the harvest and when we brought the spring hunt back, it drastically cut the percent female from the harvest, so in the last 6 years, it has gradually increased, but that is because we have increased the permits to try and get up to that 40 % without going over it. That was by design to increase the percent of females in the harvest.

Travis Pehrson- Is there any data showing where most of the bears are harvested on the San Juan, whether it is Elk Ridge or the Abajos?

Justin Shannon- I don't have that data with me. We looked at that a year ago.

Guy Wallace- Most years it was split fairly evenly.

Wayne Hoskisson- We have a bear plan that this is the first year we are actually using it. This bear plan was passed in January of this year and it sets out 2 different ways to manage bears. We haven't given that a season of a change yet. I feel like this looks like a fairly reasonable management plan to me and I feel pretty good about it. I also think people should read the bear management plan because it talks extensively about predation by bears and you can find out a lot in there. It's a good document. I am comfortable following what they are recommending right now. I am not fond of hound hunting or baiting so I would vote those out.

Travis Pehrson- What determines a human bear conflict?

Justin Shannon- There are 3 different levels, if someone sees a bear out in the woods, that might be a level 1, if it's not that big of deal and it varies all the way to level 3 where there is a serious issue or conflict with the bear. The side board is set up and it's a judgment call but as far as conflicts shown in the presentations, those are legitimate conflicts where we had to respond or trap a bear or use other techniques.

Travis Pehrson- How many bear were caught out in Eastland this year again?

Guy Wallace- This year there were 3. Last year 7. 3 were killed on the road this year.

Derris Jones- Any other discussion? Before we take a shot at a motion, I would like you to consider this RAC is totally free to recommend whatever they want, but the current Wildlife Board is going to follow pretty much within the guidelines of the current bear management plan.

Darrel Mecham- When the lion thing came out, that was Wildlife Board driven. It wasn't biologists or anything else. So is this Wildlife Board driving this? If this is the same as the lion one, I don't see any purpose for any of us being here.

Kevin Bunnell- The plan balances both biologist's side and the social side. It is not at all driven by the wildlife board. We had a 10 year bear plan and it came to an end and we did a new 12 year plan. We are just following the cycle. We put together a committee like we do with deer and elk and everything else and that committee had houndsmen and livestock interests, environmentalist groups and had members of different RACs. We tried to get as many different people from as many different backgrounds as we could. This is the strategy that came out. This wasn't driven by the board at all.

Derris Jones- I would like to entertain a motion if there is no further discussion.

Travis Pehrson- On that 30 spot and stalk tag issue, the dates are October 7<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> and that is going to interfere with the limited entry deer tags on Elk Ridge as well. Is there going to be any conflict there that you see?

Guy Wallace- Hard to say.

Travis Pehrson- With your current limited entry deer hunts going as same as the general season hunts, do you see a conflict of someone getting a bear tag and hunting deer and bear on Elk Ridge with their general season deer tag?

Guy Wallace- They could go hunting all of them at the same time.

Travis Pehrson- It's like people buying an archery elk spike tag and they have a general season deer tag and they are actually pushing the boundaries onto Elk Ridge and shooting their deer on there. I can see this being an issue too with the bear tags and general season deer tags, same time, same hunts.

J. Shirley- It is always a concern.

Derris Jones- Let the record show that Law Enforcement wasn't overly concerned with the potential time.

Wayne Hoskisson- I would like to make a move that we accept the recommendation as written, I think we should qualify that the Manti South should be looked at in terms of accessibility and that has always been a problem for predation. It might need to be adjusted. Just revisit and reconsider.

Derris Jones- Wayne's recommendations is to accept the plan as presented and potentially put an extension on the South Manti to make it accessible.

Justin Shannon- If we were to look at it, we would just do a one week extension to clarify.

Derris Jones- The motion is to accept DWR's recommendation as presented with putting an season extension on the South Manti.  
Is there a second to that motion?

Charlie Tracy- We are going to ok the spot and stalk, right? Correct.



Travis Pehrson- I would like to see the fall on the San Juan and the La Sal be extended back to September 30<sup>th</sup> and use those last two weeks without hounds.

Derris Jones- There is a motion on the floor; would you like to make that an amendment?

Charlie Tracy- I think I have my clarification.

Derris Jones- DWR's recommendation for the San Juan was 35 limited entry permits, 2 conservation permits, 5 premium permits, those are spring and then in the fall, 5 permits for August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup>. And then opening the 1<sup>st</sup> of November to the 20<sup>th</sup> of November with a limited entry spot and stalk, and 30 permits October 6<sup>th</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Charlie Tracy- So there will not be any houndsmen in the fall, period?

Derris Jones- On the limited entry there will be hounds. From August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup> there will be.

Kevin Albrecht- I will second that motion.

Derris Jones- Wayne's motion has been seconded by Kevin. Travis, would you like to try for an amendment?

Travis Pehrson- Yes, I would like to see if we could amend the La Sal and San Juan if they are ending the fall season early to at least keep it until September 30<sup>th</sup> as a basically a spot and stalk kind of strategy, so they can at least hunt there all September. So from August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup> they can use hounds. They are being shut down and everyone else can hunt until September 30<sup>th</sup>. To allow them to hunt from August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup> with hounds if that is what they choose, but from September 7<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> as a spot and stalk, if they are using archery tackle as bait, whatever is legal.

Kevin Albrecht- Just a clarification on that, just to make sure I understand it. That proposal would allow the people to draw a limited entry permit that allows them to hunt with hounds so that they could hunt the date specified now, but once those end, they could continue to hunt with spot and stalk only until the end of the spot and stalk hunt. When does the spot and stalk hunt end now?

Travis Pehrson- No, the spot and stalk starts October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Derris Jones- So you are just saying to start the spot and stalk as soon as the limited entry season ends?

Travis Pehrson- No, this is for the 5 limited entry tags.

Bill Bates- Just those 5 hunters?

Travis Pehrson- Well, plus the premium tags.

Bill Bates- The premium hunters can hunt the spot and stalk too.

Travis Pehrson- Basically the fall hunt would be from August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup> with hounds if that is what they choose, but their hunt be extended to September 30<sup>th</sup> and hunt without hounds.

Wayne Hoskissons- Travis, what would you do with November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup>?

Travis Pehrson- That stays on there too. It is still like the rest of the state. With hounds.

Derris Jones- This amendment is just for the San Juan and Las Sal unit.

The amendment is that the limited entry fall permit holders can hunt their season which is thru the 7<sup>th</sup> of September with hounds at which time starting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September thru the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, their permits will still be valid for the spot and stalk hunt with no hounds, no bait. Is that correct?

Travis Pehrson- No, they can still use bait. Basically you are just limiting the hounds because of the conflict with the rest of the hunters.

Derris Jones- Is there a second amendment?

All in favor of Travis's amendment of having fall limited entry hunters being able to hunt bears thru the end of September with the elimination of dogs beginning on the 8<sup>th</sup> on the La Sal and San Juan unit.

All in favor of that?

Travis, Jeff and Chris were for the amendment. 6 others were opposed.

Derris Jones-All opposed?

Derris Jones-The amendment fails, so we have a motion on the floor from Wayne and . seconded by Kevin, which is to accept DWR's recommendation as presented with the season extension on the South Manti.

All in favor?

All opposed?

Darrel, Travis and Jeff were the opposing votes. 6 others were in favor.

Derris Jones--Motion carries.

Derris Jones- Let's go ahead and get to the other action.

**6) Falconry Guidebook and Rule R657-20 (Action)  
-Jim Parrish, Avian Coordinator**

Derris Jones- Any questions from the RAC?

Any discussion from the RAC?

Any public questions or comment? (All of the public left after the bear discussion)

Kevin Albrecht- I make a motion to accept the falconry guidebook and rule as presented by the Division.

Jeff Horrocks- Seconded

Derris Jones- All in favor?

Any opposed?

Derris Jones-Unanimous.

Derris Jones- Before we adjourn, what does everyone think of the idea of the moving the RAC around to different areas of the region versus staying in Green River?

Jeff Horrocks- I feel it is a good idea. We have a lot of people that travel to Green River for these meetings all of the time. We should accommodate these folks and have the meetings closer to them once in a while.

Charlie Tracy- I have a lot of comments from people that can't make the trips because of their jobs.

Derris Jones- I will make a suggestion to have the DWR look at what the agenda items are and where they feel the best location for that agenda item would be. If DWR could come to the next RAC meeting with a proposed location for each RAC location for the next year, then we can look at it and tweak it how we want ,and vote on it.

Meeting started at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

## NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY

Bingham Entrepreneurship & Energy Research Center (Bingham Center), Vernal

December 8, 2011 6:30 p.m.

### **RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Carrie Mair, At-Large  
Beth Hamann, Non-Consumptive  
Brandon McDonald, BLM  
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture  
Rod Morrison, Sportsmen  
Kirk Woodward, Sportsmen  
Wayne McAllister, At Large  
Bob Christensen, Forest Service  
Andrea Merrell, Non-Consumptive

### **UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

Kevin Christopherson, NER Regional Supervisor  
Charlie Greenwood, NER Wildlife Manager  
Ron Stewart, NER Conservation Outreach  
Michelle Richens, NER Office Specialist  
Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Derrick Ewell, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Clint Sampson, NER Conservation Officer  
Brian Maxfield, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Lowell Marthe, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Jim Parrish, Avian Coordinator  
John Schivik, Game Mammals Coordinator

### **RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Floyd Briggs, RAC Chair  
Ron Winterton, Elected Official

### **RAC MEMBERS UNEXCUSED:**

### **WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS:**

Del Brady

**WELCOME-Mitch Hacking, Acting Chair**

#### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES-**

Beth Hamann motion to approve agenda and the minutes  
Bob Christensen second  
Passed unanimously

#### **3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE-Kevin Christopherson, NERO Regional Supervisor**

At the Wildlife Board, it was voted to be flexible on the 18 bucks per 100 does ratio. They approved the bucks/bulls proposal from DWR as presented. An issue with the Nine Mile, Range Creek hunt was discussed. The board approved the changes on the extended archery as presented by NER RAC. The CWMU recommendations were approved with the Sardine Canyon issues accepted as presented by the NR RAC.

Bob Christensen: They voted to be flexible on the buck to doe ratio in order to manage by unit?  
Kevin Christopherson: Yes, this would allow us to move away from state wide ratios and possibly manage for different buck/doe ratios on different units.

**4. REGIONAL UPDATE-Kevin Christopherson, NERO Regional Supervisor**

Our post season deer classifications will end next week. It went how everyone expected, some units were ok some were not.

Our fisheries department, Trina's crew, is putting together some ice fishing clinics primarily for kids, families and beginners, but anyone is invited. They will be held Dec 31 and Jan 7. At 9 and 10 o'clock they will talk about gear and tackle. It will take place at Pelican.

**5. BEAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2012-John Shivik, Game Mammals Coordinator**

The bear recommendations will be for 2011-2023. The three main purposes are 1-reduce human/bear conflicts, 2-maximize recreation, 3-protect the bear population. This will be implemented with three strategies. The strategies are light, moderate, and liberal. See Handout.

**Questions from RAC:**

Carrie Mair: How does the proposal rank verses just increasing the number of limited entry tags?

John Shivik: It drastically increases opportunity and makes the units more flexible to manage.

Carrie Mair: Is this going to affect the quality of the hunts on the harvest objective units?

John Shivik: Yes, it could. We are expecting a lot of people, but it is experimental. We want to know how it will work and therefore will only be implemented on units that are primarily private lands. We hope this will help temper the issue.

Rod Morrison: Will bear baiting still be available?

John Shivik: Yes, on limited entry areas the rules will remain the same.

Bob Christensen: Will there be baiting allowed on harvest objective areas?

John Shivik: Yes, on some. There will be some units allowed hounds, some units bait, and some units spot and stalk.

Carrie Mair: How many people apply for the bear hunt per year?

John Shivik: I don't have the exact data, but some units have a 13-14 year waiting period.

Carrie Mair: So points are a concern. How will it be addressed?

John Shivik: It is still a balance. We are trying to increase opportunity, but we didn't get rid of limited entry.

Bob Christensen: What is the success rate on spot and stalk hunts?

John Shivik: Colorado success rate is 12%. Book cliffs last year was three out of seven and this year was zero out of nine. These are the only three statistics we have so we don't know for sure. If there are questions, we can adjust in three years.

#### **Questions from Audience:**

Ben Lowder: Why is baiting not going to be allowed on some units?

John Shivik: We are trying to balance the hunts. Archers and law enforcement don't want to have dogs running from bait. The intent is to try and minimize conflicts.

Chet Young: The spot and stalk success rate is down on the Book Cliffs. Can these statistics be compared to San Juan and La Sal? In these units you can just drive down the road and shoot bears.

John Shivik: Good point, we expect there will be differences. We will have to wait and see.

Courtney Young: In your presentation were the 29% adult females or all females?

John Shivik: All females.

#### **Comments from Audience:**

Chet Young, President of Utah Hounds men Association: Paper handout. The Wasatch /Carrant Creek/ Avintaquin unit has a spring harvest objective. We would like to see it changed to a female sub-quota with no hounds or bait. We don't want to ruin the bear hunt like the cougar hunt was when harvest objective was introduced. In previous meetings, our association was assured that harvest objective would only be implemented on units like Nine Mile that have no access with the intent to help the land owners. The female sub-quota that is wanted is a safety net if hounds are allowed. In the end, killing four sows equals a lot more bears than 10 boars.

The Spot and Stalk hunt on the San Juan and La Sal is set at 30. This is very high because these areas are so accessible. If 50% are killed, that is a very high number. Start low by offering 10 permits and see how

it goes for a year, then adjust accordingly so it doesn't demolish the bears. We are willing to give up some spring tags to save the bears for the future. If San Juan/ La Sal is listed moderate and giving 77 tags, that is a higher number of tags than some of the liberal units. The permit numbers need to be adjusted. San Juan/ La Sal for the bear hunt can be compared to the Henry Mountains for the deer hunt. Let's not ruin it.

Carrie Mair: The lion issue that you mentioned, what do you mean exactly?

Chet Young: When the lion harvest objective first started there were a lot of big toms. Now you are lucky to get a small lion or kitten. It ruined the hunt.

Carrie Mair: What does the biology say? Has there been a detriment to the hunts?

Randall Thacker/Derrick Ewell: There is no data saying that the hunt quality has diminished.

Bob Christensen: With Harvest Objective, the quota can be adjusted if the harvest is too great.

Chet Young: The mule deer population is the main reason for having a quota on lions. Bears are not the reason for decrease in the deer populations. We are simply killing because we can, not because there is a need. Go safe, with a safety-net, start slow.

Carrie Mair: What do you mean by safe? Safe for who?

Chet Young: Safe for both the bears and hunting opportunity. What is lost in two years can take twenty to build back up.

Andrea Merrell: What is the average percent harvested of the population?

John Shivik: We are not estimating the number of bears out there; we are actively measuring the percentage of males verses females. We are measuring how hard the population is hit.

Andrea Merrell: The plan says 10-20% up or down?

John Shivik: Genetics are +/- 10%. We are not perfect so if it is in that 10% range, we are safe. We plan conservative.

Andrea Merrell: When are the reports available?

John Shivik: Not yet.

Randall Thacker: They should come out about February.

Chet Young: Another concern is that the dates of the San Juan /La Sal have been changed. Because this tag can take up to 12 years to draw, we are asking for a compromise to give us some more time to hunt.

Kirk Woodward: So did we change the dates only on the San Juan/La Sal?

John Shivik: Yes, but we also moved it earlier so it didn't cut it too small. It was a conflict with the archery elk hunt. It comes down to balancing quality for both bear and elk.

Kirk Woodward: So why only those units?

John Shivik: Complaints are the driving factor. It was these areas that had huge amounts of complaints that were brought to our attention.

Mitch Hacking: Chet was this presented to SE RAC? How did they respond?

Chet Young: Yes it was presented. I believe there were four or five different hounds men that talked about it. The RAC did not deliberate on it and went with the division recommendation. We are just looking for a compromise. The last couple of weeks are the best to harvest.

Bob Christensen: What about November? You have almost the entire month.

Chet Young: In November the harvest is minimal.

Bob Christensen: Bears don't go in until mid/late November.

Chet Young: the harvest is minimal because the bears have started to slow down. If you harvest in November it is usually because you have walked in on top of it. The last two weeks of early fall is the best time to hunt. Let's not lose some of our opportunity.

Carrie Mair: Are there any conflicts to these two weeks?

John Shivik: Yes, everywhere.

Kevin Christopherson: The issue wasn't just hunters. It was also recreation. This area is high use for camping, fishing, hiking, etc. We have tried to find a balance.

Bob Christensen: Dog limitations also, this was a big discussion point last year.

Brandon McDonald: What were the major complaints to bring it where it is now?

John Shivik: There were multiple: hounds out early in the morning, too many hounds and buddies with the hunters, chasing around deer/elk, running through camps, hounds following people all day, etc.



Wayne McAllister: What were the spot & stalk numbers last year?

John Shivik: It is a new opportunity. The Book Cliffs was the only one last year.

Ben Lowder, Utah Bowmen's Association: We support the DWR efforts to increase opportunity by harvest objective and spot/stalk hunts, however we are concerned about the opportunity to hunt archery with bait on the Wasatch/Currant Creek/Avintaquin unit. We would like to recommend a harvest objective with a spring limited entry archery hunt. In my handout you can see that we would suggest 10 permits for the spring. Three of those permits for archery. Allowing all the current rules to be implemented with those archery permits. Harvest objective is great for hounds men. Our change would create opportunity and would make the archery tags more accessible to be drawn. From 2010 reports, I found that 25% of the bears were taken with archery. This has been an increase over the last few years. The reason for no baiting is to reduce the conflicts between archers and hounds men. I do not see this as an issue because it is happening now. All units that have archery have the potential for conflicts and that is to be expected. Illegal baits will still be there anyways. It is in the archers self interest to help watch for those illegal baits, which can also fit with Jim Karpowitz's concern on the small number of conservation officers that we have. In order to get a bait permit, we have to get permission from the Forest Service or other land agency in charge of that land. We want to keep good relationships by not overloading them with requests.

I agree with Chet on the fall season dates for the San Juan/La Sal hunt. These dates don't make sense. I don't see the issue because it is already overlapping the archery deer hunt anyways.

Carrie Mair: The percentages I have are a little different than what you are saying for Wasatch/Currant Creek/Avintaquin[lower, Lowder's were statewide not by unit]. Please explain to me how baiting works?

Ben Lowder: Baiting is typically done in the spring, but can also be done in the fall. Usually a bait is run for 4-5 weeks.

Carrie Mair: So you are training bears to come to bait?

Ben Lowder: It's not as easy as it sounds. Bears are very intelligent. You can set up a bait the first week of May and not harvest until the last week of June. This year, after a bait was established, it took three weeks before a bear came in. It was a tough spring. Often baits have taken one week and we have seen two to three bears a week.

Carrie Mair: What are the odds of success if there are unlimited numbers of hounds men? Would you still put in?

Ben Lowder: Yes, I would still put it. This is an issue, but bear hunting is hard anyway. We need to give opportunities where we can.

Bob Christensen: How would your idea alleviate pressure to the USFS?

Ben Lowder: A limited entry season would limit the number of requests, whereas harvest objective would have unlimited requests.

Mitch Hacking: Do you have to have permission from USFS to pursue?

Ben Lowder: No, only to set up bait. It is quite a process with many limitations. The USFS wants to ensure that they are safe.

Marissa Oaks, Grazing for Wildlife: I am here to show support for the increase in the number of tags. I have hunted bear both with hounds and archery. Both were great but challenging. I decided to put in for a premium bear tag on the Diamond/Vernal/Bonanza unit. Because of the snow, I couldn't get on Diamond at first so I set a bait up in Dry Fork. In one week I had over 30 photos and can identify at least three different bears. At the end of May I was able to set a bait on Diamond. Within the first two hours a young boar came in to the site. I sat in a tree stand on four days but couldn't get one to actually come in to the bait, but we could hear him. Getting out of the stand on the last day, I heard a fight break out. There were two bears. Right before dark I was able to get a shot at an amazing bear. It is not easy to hunt bears, but the increase in opportunity is great.

Mitch Hacking: The last couple of years riding for the Association has there been a reasonable increase in the number of bears you have encountered?

Marissa Oaks: Yes, in the past, I had only encountered them while pursuing. Recently, there have been more encounters otherwise.

Mitch Hacking: Is this on Diamond and the forest?

Marissa Oaks: Yes and Dry Fork also. The bears are coming in to water.

Mitch Hacking: Have the Diamond Mountain land owners been encountering more bears?

Marissa Oaks: Yes, there are a lot more stories.

**Comments from RAC:**

Bob Christensen: Harvest Objective hunts provide more opportunities. Limited-entry hunts don't as much. With the plan recommendations, there will be three-year cycles to review the strategies. There are twenty-three bear units if only three of them are harvest objective, it would keep twenty of them limited-entry. Harvest Objective is only three units, I think it would be worth a try and see how it goes. The female sub-quota on one unit also gives merit to the three different strategies. The plan gives provisions to not over-harvest and the quota can be adjusted if needed. With the baiting, the forest

service is not inundated with requests, but the potential for significant increase is there if baiting is allowed on harvest objective units. I think we should try harvest objective for now and throw in the baiting later on. You can still shoot with your archery equipment, you just can't bait.

Carrie Mair: Some hunters still have a concern with the quality. They suggest that we leave the unit limited-entry but base permit numbers on harvest. If there is a twenty percent success rate then increase the number of tags, but don't make them unlimited.

John Shivik: That was basically followed. Harvest objective numbers are not just pulled out of a hat.

Carrie Mair: What means of communication are there? How do you know, quickly, how many are harvested?

John Shivik: This has also been discussed in the other RACs. Public lands won't be open to harvest objective because of the possibility of over-harvest. Only the units not dominated by public lands have the potential to be opened. The sex of the bears is also important.

Carrie Mair: What is the method right now?

Randall Thacker: It is just like cougars. They have to be checked in to an office within 48 hours.

Carrie Mair: So a hunter is suppose to call in and check every day?

Randall Thacker: Yes.

Bob Christensen: Limited-entry is still a limited number of people. Harvest objective can have substantially more people. They are only proposing to try it on three units.

Carrie Mair: They are not extravagant hunts and not as desirable.

Chet Young: How are we going to monitor and shut it down? If in one weekend of a 10 objective hunt, 16 are killed, what happens? We, as hounds men, are going to be the ones to go out and we want a safety-net.

Mitch Hacking: Any more comments? What about the date changes?

Carrie Mair: I don't have enough information not being from that region.

Mitch Hacking: The hounds men and archers supported the date changes.

Bob Christensen: Is the conflict more on San Juan than La Sal?

John Shivik: Justin in SER would have to address that.

Kevin Christopherson: If I recall correctly, La Sal had more conflicts.

Bob Christensen: Can we go one way on the La Sal and another with San Juan? Could the spot and stalk on San Juan start at 30 permits? I don't have enough information for La Sal, but maybe start it with lower numbers.

**MOTION by Bob Christensen to accept the plan as presented with two exceptions. The San Juan and La Sal spot and stalk hunt be started with 20 permits. The La Sal ending date be Sept 7 and extend the San Juan ending date to Sept 20.**

**Second by Andrea Merrell**

Carrie Mair: Where did we get 20 permits?

Bob Christensen: That is just a suggestion from me.

Kirk Woodward: This is a comment, not a proposal. The bowmen presented to allow archery with bait and a limited entry season?

Bob Christensen: I think we should leave it as presented. They can still use bait on the other twenty units.

Rod Morrison: I think the dates overlap the limited entry elk hunt. When does that start?

Derrick Ewell: It starts the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Rod Morrison: I propose to change the ending date to the 14 instead of the 20.

Bob Christensen: Yes, I agree with that. It will still allow the bear hunters extra time.

Kirk Woodward: What about the ending date for the La Sal hunt?

Bob Christensen: The ending date change only for the San Juan. It will leave the conflict resolved for the archery hunters.

**MOTION by Bob Christensen to change the amendment date to the 14.**

**Second by Beth Hamann**

Passed unanimously

**The original motion with the new amendment was passed seven to one**

**Favor: Carrie Mair, Beth Hamann, Brandon McDonald, Rod Morrison, Wayne McAllister, Bob Christensen, Andrea Merrell**

**Opposed: Kirk Woodward - I support the idea presented by the bowmen's association. I don't want to lose opportunities.**

**6. FALCONRY GUIDEBOOK AND RULE R657-20-Jim Parrish, Avian Coordinator**

Five year review-see handout

**Questions from RAC:**

Kirk Woodward: Tell me what an imprint falcon is?

Jim Parrish: Birds taken to early imprint you as being a sibling, parent, or other bird. These birds are more difficult to handle and can be dangerous to humans. Apprentices don't have the experience to handle these birds.

**Questions from Audience:**

**Comments from Audience:**

Merrissa Wharden, Falconer: I support the recommendations as presented. I just wanted to clarify the use of hybrids for Apprentices?

Jim Parrish: Only native American hybrids. We are trying to help keep them separate species.

**Comments from RAC:**

**MOTION by Kirk Woodward to accept as presented**

**Second by Carrie Mair**

**Passed unanimously**

Kirk Woodward: I am involved with mule deer and elk management discussions on a daily basis. I know not one thing is a fix. A management hunt on Book Cliffs and Diamond Mountain have been suggested

to me often. I would like to hear from our biologist on this. I would like us to talk to the board and request a proposal on management hunts for Book Cliffs and Diamond Mountain from NER.

Carrie Mair: What happened to our last proposal?

Kevin Christopherson: Del put it on the action log for the future.

Kirk Woodward: I just want to hear from our guys in our region.

Carrie Mair: Why don't we just have dinner and talk about it?

Kirk Woodward: It is not that simple.

Beth Hamann: Let's not put their head on the chopping block.

Carrie Mair: Anything they might say puts them in cold water?

Wayne McAllister~~Ron Winterton~~: It [Kirk's way] shows that they have their boss' approval.

Kirk Woodward: There is no problem is there Kevin?

Kevin Christopherson: No, they are free to share their ideas with any one that asks. It is complicated though because they still have to fit with the plan.

Kirk Woodward: Once the recommendations get to the RAC/Board we have to go with an overall opinion. I just want to hear on one specific issue from our biologist, those that understand the units best, not other biologists. I don't think it would be an overload on the biologists.

Kevin Christopherson: We have been doing open houses, maybe that is the place to address it.

Kirk Woodward: Yes, but I think this is something the whole RAC needs to hear. It is only one issue.

Beth Hamann: So are you wanting a presentation? Have them come in and see what is happening in that unit?

Kirk Woodward: Yes, I just want to know if a management hunt would work.

Beth Hamann: Are you wanting them to say if they agree or not with the proposal?

Kirk Woodward: I am just asking for Book Cliffs and Diamond Mountain.

Kevin Christopherson: You are wanting something informational relating to what might work?

Randall Thacker: Keep in mind that we would have to amend the management plan to change this from premium hunts only.

Kirk Woodward: I am not asking for that. I just want to know can it work or not.

Carrie Mair: Could that be included in the regional update?

Kevin Christopherson: I will have to see.

Kirk Woodward: I am asking one issue. Tell me what you think would work in the Book Cliffs and Diamond.

Carrie Mair: It is our job to get this information. It doesn't need to be in this format [RAC meeting].

Kirk Woodward: I would like to hear in RAC format what they think would work.

Brandon McDonald: I agree, it would be very informational.

Kevin Christopherson: We will put something together.

Del Brady: You should all get a copy of the raw deer counts and look at what they have. This information has already been offered.

Kirk Woodward: Or go out in the field with them.

Del Brady: Yes, go with them. Get the information that has already been offered.

Beth Hamann: The Division is really good at letting you go and do things with them. I have been out several times and plan to do more.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:50**

Central Region Advisory Council  
Central Region Conference Center  
1115 N Main Street, Springville  
December 13, 2011 ⌚ 6:30 p.m.

## **Motion Summary**

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

MOTION: To accept the agenda and minutes as written  
Passed unanimously

### **Bear Recommendations for 2012**

MOTION: To accept the four recommendations presented: (1) by the Bowman's Association, (3) by the Houndmen's Association and (1) by the a RAC member to extend the closing date from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> on units with nuisance concerns  
Failed 2 to 7

MOTION: To change the dates on the La Sal & San Juan units from August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup> to August 18<sup>th</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup>  
Passed 8 to 1

MOTION: To adopt the Bowman's Association recommendation on the Wasatch Mountains, Current Creek/Avintaquin unit to have two hunts, a spring harvest objective hunt with a quota of 7 and a spring limited entry archery only hunt with 7 permits  
Failed 4 to 5

MOTION: To adopt the Houndmen's Association proposal to change the Wasatch, Current Creek/Avintaquin unit from harvest objective to female quota  
Failed 2 to 7

MOTION: To change the extended dates from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> on units with nuisance concerns  
Passed 7 to 2

MOTION: To accept the remainder of the Division's recommendations as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **Falconry Guidebook and Rule R657-20**

MOTION: To accept as the Falconry Guide Book & Rule as presented  
Passed unanimously



Central Region Advisory Council  
Central Region Conference Center  
1115 N Main Street, Springville  
December 13, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Fred Oswald, Non-consumptive, Chair  
Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture  
Richard Hansen, At large  
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen  
Duane Smith, Non-consumptive  
George Holmes, Agriculture  
Matt Clark, Sportsmen  
Kristofer Marble, At large  
Timothy Fehr, At large  
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service

**Members Absent**

Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Vice Chair  
Jay Price, Elected  
Michael Gates, BLM

**Others Present**

John Bair, Wildlife Board Member

- 
- 1) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**  
- Fred Oswald, RAC Chair

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Timothy Fehr to accept the agenda and minutes as written  
Seconded by Matt Clark  
Motion passed unanimously**

- 2) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)**  
- Fred Oswald, RAC Chair
- 3) **Regional Update (Information)**  
- Craig Clyde, Central Regional Wildlife Manager

**Wildlife**

- Post-season deer classification continues through the end of the month
- Deer are going into the winter in good condition, mild start to winter good for deer herds
- Deer capture operation on the Oquirrh-Stansburry and Wasatch deer units completed last week. Radio-collared does and fawns will be monitored to determine adult doe survival and fawn recruitment.
- Special bighorn ram hunt on Lakeside Mountains

**Habitat**

- Black Hill WMA access management project completed, now need support from local sportsmen to implement the plan
- Most Division-owned wildlife management areas will be locked up this week and will remain closed to motor vehicles until April
- Continue to work with UDOT to identify high risk areas for big game along Hwy 6, 80 and 189 and to recommend mitigation (structures and fencing) to include in future projects
- Finalizing habitat project proposals for the Watershed Restoration Program in 2013

### Aquatics

- Conservation easement acquisition and monitoring continues along the Upper Sanpitch River as a way to protect habitat for sensitive aquatic species
- Carp removal at Utah Lake is on hold while the ice forms. It was a banner year for carp removal, with 174 days of trawling and many days with over 30,000 pounds harvested
- Reservoirs still open, good fishing for rainbows at Deer Creek, large browns (5-7 pounds) being caught at Jordanelle, rainbows and cutthroat at Strawberry and last but not least, 7-9-inch bluegill being taken in large numbers where tributaries enter Utah Lake

### Conservation Outreach

- Hunter/Shooter Recruitment Committee still working on pilot project for Central Region
- Unit by Unit outreach effort underway – FAQs on DWR website
- Promotional campaign to increase awareness of deer poaching problems on winter ranges statewide – partnership with conservation organizations

### Law Enforcement

- Special West Desert saturation patrol involving all regional officers was completed last week during a 24-hour period
- First of many efforts to increase law enforcement presence in high risk poaching areas
- Officers are working several illegally taken deer and elk cases region-wide

#### **4) Bear Recommendations for 2012 (Action)**

- **John Shivik, Game Mammals Coordinator**

### Questions from the RAC

Karl Hirst – Can you expand on nuisance problems and what you think the five day extension will do for that? How many bears are killed by ADC?

John Shivik – The plan has a few categories. For a unit to be in a liberal category the Wildlife Services (ADC) take is more than the harvest. Does that answer your question?

Kris Marble – How many bears are taken by ADC?

John Shivik – I can tell you depredation and other mortality in 2010 there were 33 males and 18 females. The average over the last few years it is usually around 30 males and 18 females. That is combined mortalities. I don't have it split out by Wildlife Services.

Karl Hirst – So that is 50 some killed for depredation and the harvest is around 160.

John Shivik – Exactly.

Kris Marble – Do you know what the population trends have been on the areas with increased nuisance problems? Have bear populations grown?

John Shivik – It is a difficult question because the way the plan is set up we are not focusing on populations. It is focused on proportions of males/females. The feeling on the ground is yes we are getting more nuisance and it is related to having more bears around. By following the plan if we have areas with more nuisance or ADC take then we will have a more liberal harvest strategy. We would have more permits and would end up with more females and the action should be to reduce the population in that area but I can't say what the numbers actually are.

Kris Marble – Do you know what the anticipated success rates are on the spot and stalk units and what female harvest is anticipated on those hunts?

John Shivik – We don't know because this is experimental. We went into this educated, we looked at Colorado and on a similar hunt there were 12 percent or so taken. We know on the Book Cliffs which has been a spot and stalk, two years ago out of the seven permits three were brought in so that is about 40 percent. But then last year nothing. We are expecting five to ten percent but we won't know until they are done.

Kris Marble – On harvest objective units, do you take into account a possible overharvest? Are they figured into next years plan?

John Shivik – What was built into the plan is a safety valve. We are most concerned with that sort of overharvest in areas with a lot of public access. If you have an area that is dominated by public land you cannot have a harvest objective unit there. It works well with the Nine Mile but we even ran the numbers on the Wasatch and in terms of habitat there was still around 40 percent private plus there were tribal lands on there as well. So we use those harvest objective but we focus them on areas were we think the hunting pressure and rate of take will not be so fast that it goes faster than our report of bears taken. That is the best answer we have right now. The plan says try the three out and see what works and I think we will make some adjustments here at the end of the cycle.

Kris Marble – But you don't already decrease it by five percent?

John Shivik – Not automatically. We tried to build those kinds of safety valves in up front. I like this process and some of the things we have spoken about in the different RACs so far are ways to reduce that reporting time. Are there better ways of reporting electronically?

Kris Marble – So with these new harvest objective units what is built in?

John Shivik – The idea was to get units that we thought were safer to begin with.

Timothy Fehr – You ended up with 494 permits. You said that is an 11 percent increase but by my calculations that is a 15 percent increase. When you showed the criteria I didn't see anything that showed a reason to increase the number of permits for this year.

John Shivik – What they did is they went to each of the units and looked at the last three years and looked at what harvest strategy we want that unit to be in. Some of the units that were harvested light or even into a moderate the biologists would bump up the permits by up to 20 percent and they would do that within each unit based on the conditions and then you are getting into the biology of that particular unit. So what the plan says is here is what your strategy is, look at the proportions and bump up or down the permits by the amount dictated by the plan. We are following the plan adopted in January and using those proportions in order to calculate the permits.

Timothy Fehr – Looks to me like we have increased numbers substantially.

John Shivik – The state is supposed to be, according to the plan, overall in the moderate category. When we looked at it statewide over the last three years males were moderate and females light. That tells us that we are going to bump up permits by a little bit in order to bring the proportions statewide for both males and females into moderate.

Fred Oswald – Let me ask that same question...I have been on the RAC for six years now and I have heard five or six bear presentations and in those five or six years the number of bear permits each year has always gone up. Over those five or six years I think you have to make the assumption that if the permits are going up every year it must be that the bear population is going up every year in the same sort of percentages and you can look at the percentage of females and males taken and say that is right because our percentages are staying right where we want. The assumption is that over the last five or six years the bear population has increased exponentially and I don't know what that would be but I know it is a lot. My question for you as a biologist is, what is it about the state of Utah that is allowing our bear population to grow in such numbers? It seems you are saying that every year the bear population is going up. Not that I don't believe your numbers but I would like some explanation as to why we have a bear population that is increasing every year.

John Shivik – The indication is, falling back on the biology and the way the plan is put together, again it is based on science in Idaho if we are harvesting in the light to moderate range for the last few years that means that the population is in an upward trajectory. So definitely from the guys in the regions there is the feeling that we have a good healthy growing bear population. We are seeing nuisance go up, we are seeing a lot of things that indicate a healthy population. We have

our harvest data that shows we are managing light to moderate so there shouldn't be anything surprising in those numbers based on the way we have historically been managing those bears. Even though we have increased permits and it sounds like a lot of permits relative to the impacts on the population we are not taking enough females to lower the population.

Richard Hansen – Why don't they have spot and stalk in all units? What are the criteria?

John Shivik – I don't have a good answer for that as I was not involved in the development of the plan. I can say that the idea was to try to add the spot and stalk in order to increase opportunity.

Richard Hansen – Is there any reason why it couldn't be implemented?

Craig Clyde – We don't want to sell the public a permit where they can't harvest or see a bear. In a lot of the units the bear population is low enough that you don't just see a bear. The population has to be high enough that you actually see a bear when you are out there in order to make it a permit that would be valuable to the general hunter and we are not just selling them something that they can't use. Some of the units that we looked at had bear populations high enough that you could go out there and see bear. There probably are areas where the spot and stalk could be added but not in our region.

George Holmes – Help me understand, you really don't count the bears and find a number. You do this by a percentage of success for the permits, correct?

John Shivik – Yes sir. It's very difficult to get a precise estimate about the number of animals out there especially an animal like bears. But what we can do is we have proxies that are related to those numbers which are the percentages of females and males that are taken. Those we can measure really well. It is one of those cost benefit type of things where we can get all the information we need to manage the population based on those percentages of adult males and females and ironically without even knowing how many bears are out there. The most important thing we need to know is the trend.

George Holmes – You manage to have the population go level?

John Shivik – The plan has the overall state in moderate. There might be some units where we have nuisance or other concerns where we might want liberal to bring them down and then offset that with light units in order to keep the overall state stable.

George Holmes – Will a bear travel from one unit to another or are they moved by DWR? If you have too many in an area will they go to another area?

John Shivik – That is one of the things about the plan and the way it was set up, that is a goal of the plan to have source sync areas. You can have areas with an over abundance where you have bears that can feed into other areas where there are fewer bears.

George Holmes – Do they travel by themselves or is part of the plan to artificially trap and move them?

John Shivik – No, there is no plan to move them around. This is a harvest and permit and opportunity based plan. The idea is to have the permits and have the harvest.

George Holmes – How long ago did Idaho put this model into place?

John Shivik – It was twenty years of studies.

George Holmes – And we are now putting it into the bear plan here in Utah.

John Shivik - I wasn't involved in creating the plan but I am responsible to implement the plan. It has been through the RAC and Board process and I have to take that and follow the numbers and do it as they say. That is about as much background as I can give you.

George Holmes – So this plan started January of 2011?

John Shivik – The Board adopted the plan on January 4, 2011.

Richard Hansen – Is there any component in the plan that figures in anything in regards to predation on big game animals by bears?

John Shivik – The short answer is no. Bears are different than some of the other predators and their impact on say deer populations is thought to be minimal at most. It is different with cougars or coyotes. For instance on the study done on the La Sals, out of the 25 fawns that were predated

upon, only one of them was due to bear. In New Mexico I think it is four percent and in Colorado I think it was three percent. Again I wasn't party to putting the plan together but that is not something that the bear plan addresses, just the bear harvest.

Matt Clark – In your presentation it showed the more permits you have the more nuisance bears you have, is that correct?

John Shivik – Pursuit permits on La Sal and San Juan.

Matt Clark – So is it just in La Sal and San Juan there is a problem?

John Shivik – The biologist in that region saw that trend. We should note that the pursuit is a good tool and a lot of the other regions like it, it is helpful if there are campground issues you can pursue them. It is one of those double edged swords. Their concern in that particular region is that the pursuit might be pushing the bears down into town. There are other factors. There are weather issues; there are other campers and other people up there. That is why we need to say on La Sal and San Juan there is a solid trend that we need to look into.

Sarah Flinders – I know you didn't write the plan but do you know if those who did actually took into account the human conflict and the success rates on each of the units when they created that strategy?

John Shivik – Yes they did. Again if we have a unit where we have conflicts then we will have a liberal harvest and we could extend the spring season as well. Nuisance was built into the plan.

Sarah Flinders – Does the management plan allow for changes based on new human/bear conflict and the take ratios that we see from the previous year?

John Shivik – Right now it is written as this three year cycle. Of course there are, if there is an emergency type situation, mechanisms to do that. That is a good point because with nuisance it might be a little different but I don't know because the percentages of males and females in the harvest it is really helpful to have three years of data. For me this is a good approach because it allows us to get enough information. You might have a late snow year that can change things any one year. By looking at a three year block it really helps the biologists come up with recommendations they can feel good about.

Sarah Flinders – On the Nebo unit we have a lot of conflict and we also have the Wasatch Mountains, West that is liberal yet Nebo is moderate and has almost half the permits in the spring and again in the fall. It is a concern of ours to wait two more years to address the conflicts on the Nebo. It is also a hard area to get into in the spring and even in late spring. We didn't even open gates until into June last year. The hunt ends June third.

John Shivik – The reason for the extension on the Nebo is because of nuisance. In terms of permits and things, Craig might want to address this.

Sarah Flinders – Folks can't get into that unit until sometimes after the extended time.

John Shivik – There are a variety of issues and some of the problems that we have had is the statewide balance. We had some discussions about this and trying to make this balance statewide and trying to set which units are which.

Craig Clyde – Sarah, we can only have so many liberal units in the state and basically going by the plan we tried to put one in each of the regions. We received more complaints on the Wasatch than we did the Nebo. We are trying a few different ways to reduce those conflicts.

Sarah Flinders – Do we have the capability under this new management plan to shift some of the spring over into the fall where they can access those units a little easier?

Craig Clyde – Yes. This is the recommendation that came from our biologist. We have, as you know tried to work with the Forest Service to try to get gates opened earlier or put in other gates so they can get a little further up the mountain.

Larry Fitzgerald – Is the overall goal to decrease, increase or maintain the bear population?

John Shivik – The overall goal of the plan that I am following is to balance nuisance with protecting the resource while at the same time allowing opportunity. The way it is written in the

plan it would keep the statewide at a moderate which would put it more or less level but then allow for individual adjustment within units. Some units we want to bring it down and in some units we want to allow it to go up.

Larry Fitzgerald – So with your plan it would stabilize the state?

John Shivik – On a statewide scale but any one unit might be going up or down.

### **Questions from the Public**

John Bair – The Wasatch is in the liberal strategy?

John Shivik – Yes the Wasatch, West.

John Bair – So there will still be baiting and hounding allowed and the Avintaquin will be spot and stalk.

John Shivik – Yes.

Chet Young – Utah Houndsmen Association – We are trying to follow the plan and stay within the moderate, liberal and light. San Juan and the La Sal are in the moderate. The 47 normal tags that are issued puts it at the moderate then we have added 30 permits for spot and stalk, how does that follow the moderate category? My second question is when we are comparing our biology on spot and stalk hunts can we use the biology of the roadless part of the Book Cliffs and compare that to San Juan and La Sal with all the access?

John Shivik – The La Sal and San Juan have actually been being lightly harvested and there will be a bump up in permits to move them into moderate. The second part of your question as far as using one unit to determine what will happen in another unit it is not definite that it will happen exactly the same but we can use that and information in Colorado and information over multiple years to make an educated guess and come up with that 30 permits. Again the plan says try it, see how it works and then adjust.

Jason Binder – On the one slide you showed with the bear hair study it showed a nine percent decrease in population density on La Sals but yet we are still raising that 30 tags. Shouldn't we be cutting the permit numbers?

John Shivik – What will happen is we have these thresholds where we start to worry about it. If it was going down by more than ten percent then you would be exactly right. Since it didn't make that ten percent threshold we keep it as it is for now and then we'll go through this next round and if it hits that threshold then we will make those adjustments not only there but throughout the region.

Jason Binder – I know we used Idaho as a model, why wasn't the advice of Hal Black and Jordan Pedersen used more in making this plan?

John Shivik – Again, I wasn't part of the development of this plan. I am fairly confident they were involved.

Jason Binder – In the triggers, when you moved from one harvest strategy to another wasn't it supposed to be up to a 20 percent increase in tags. On the La Sals and San Juan the increase was more than 20 percent.

John Shivik – The second half of the limited entry was reduced by five and then the 30 is our best estimate of expected take. We are expecting ten percent so out those 30 we are expecting three bears to be harvested. You're right I don't know what is going to happen but we have to try it through.

Jason Binder – As we have seen with the management of the animals in the state, isn't the bear population such a fine animal to manage that maybe our criteria of this way and that way sway a little bit more than they should?

John Shivik – Based on my knowledge of the biology and the science and what was put into this I think the plan has some good safety valves and some good science backing it up and I think if we go through this cycle and we see these percentages change and we see a lot of females in there then it automatically puts the brakes on. I think the bear population is robust and doing fine right now. I think there are enough safety valves in there to keep anything from going terribly wrong.

John Binder – Do you feel we couldn't impact the bear population in three years?

John Shivik – If we start impacting the bear population then the plan will say the proportions are wrong and we need to reduce permits.

Jason Binder – But we will have to wait for three years to do that?

John Shivik – Again, the data will be better after three years than after one year.

### **Comments from the Public**

Ben Lowder – Utah Bowman's Association – (handout) We support the DWR's efforts to provide an increased opportunity to hunt bears via the harvest objective hunts and the spot and stalk hunts. Overall we like the plan adopted earlier this year. However, we feel that part of the recommendation is inadvertently eliminating an opportunity that currently exists to hunt over bait on the Wasatch Mountain, Currant Creek unit. We are recommending what I have handed out to you tonight. We are recommending a limited entry spring archery only hunt in conjunction with that harvest objective hunt. There are two hunts listed on the handout. Hunt #1 is what is being recommended by the DWR although I have changed one thing on that for our recommendation and that is the harvest objective. I have lowered that down from ten to seven bears and that is to account for an opportunity to target three bears on the spring limited entry archery only hunt. Based on the 2010 annual black bear report the ten year average success rate is 40 percent. To target three bears we could issue about seven tags for that. Hunt #2, the spring limited entry archery only hunt, would be essentially the same type of archery bear tag that we currently issue when someone puts in for a bear tag and chooses an archery tag. It would allow spot and stalk and baiting and hunting with hounds but only allows hunting with archery tackle. I want to state that this isn't necessarily a bow hunter issue; this is a baiting issue as far as this opportunity is concerned. The only thing that makes it a bow hunter issue is the fact that the only way you can hunt over bait in Utah is with an archery permit. You are probably asking yourself why we are not asking just to allow baiting on a harvest objective hunt and the reason for that is we understand that if we do that the Forest Service will probably get overwhelmed with baiting requests. We are trying to help the Forest Service eliminate that burden on them. By creating a spring limited entry hunt that allows baiting we would limit the number of baiting requests to just those hunters that would be drawing that hunt. We see this as a win all the way around because the harvest objective allows for an unlimited hunting opportunity and we believe that with that harvest objective opportunity on that unit at the same time as this limited entry opportunity the odds would be easier to draw. The number of bears targeted between these two hunts again I have reduced the harvest objective to seven and then targeting three issuing seven tags on the limited entry hunt. I looked at the 2010 annual black bear report and about 26 percent of bears taken are taken over bait with a bow. That is where I came up with that split. We understand that there are concerns about conflicts between houndsmen and people hunting over bait. I don't see that as a huge issue and the reason why is the rest of the units in the state currently do that. Also in the fall we have archery deer hunters, archery elk hunters, bear hunters over bait, and bear hunters with hounds all at the same time. A handful of houndsmen and a handful of hunters hunting over bait I don't see a great risk of conflicts there. Whether there are legal baits allowed on the unit or not there is always the potential there for illegal bait to be put out. Unfortunately there will always be this problem. If we allow legal baits on this unit it helps create a self policing unit and the reason I say that is any hunter who has a legal bait it is in their own self interest to look out for and help police illegal baiting that may be going on. I see this as being important and the reason I say this is just two weeks ago at the Wildlife Board working meeting Jim Karpowitz, the director, stated that with the current budget cuts and future budget cuts we are cutting back full time employees in the Division. His statement was when you need a C.O. out in the field you are not going to be able to find one. In my opinion a self policing unit is to the benefit of all. That pretty much wraps up my recommendation I have handed to you. In addition I would like to say I have looked at the hunt dates on the La Sal and the San Juan fall hunt dates where the Division is recommending a shortened season I would like to show support to keep

those dates the same as the rest of the fall dates. There are five permits on each unit and it seems like a small chance of conflict there. I have been there in the fall and have not seen issues  
John Shivik – response... We made our recommendations based on what we saw out in the field for instance La Sal/San Juan. Those are unique units in terms of conflict between hounds and some of the other people out there hunting. I asked for numbers about that today and they would get 20 or so complaints where as in other units one or two. One or two is acceptable. Those units are unique. There is a lot of pressure and emotion down there and that is why those recommendations were made.

Fred Oswald – How would the Division feel about an archery only bear hunt in the Wasatch unit?  
John Shivik – With bait? Again if things fall within the plan, I guess I would have to leave that up to the board.

Fred Oswald – Right now the bear plan has no provisions for having separate archery only bear hunts.

John Shivik – There is a plaque at the office that says simplify and one of the difficulties in presenting recommendations like this is that we have to try to make a “one-size-fits-all” recommendation for the public. Every unit is definitely different but when we have seasons within seasons within seasons within units within regions this has been one of my tougher jobs to sort out what these regulations are. It can lead to people making mistakes and not even on their own part because the proclamations get so insanely complicated. So anything that is going to continue to split seasons and one day it is okay for archery and one day it is okay for bait and one day it is not leads to law enforcement issues and complicated issues so my general response is if it looks like it is going to be splitting up seasons and places and make things more complicated then we would rather not see that but again, this is the process.

Kristofer Marble – Ben had mentioned that this is the only unit that does not have this, the Wasatch/Avintaquin unit that doesn't have archery only with baiting?

John Shivik – Because we had to institute that spring harvest objective somewhere. That is where it fell out through all of our discussions. To try to balance those together is the challenge.

Chet Young – Utah Houndsmen Association (See handout) – I was part of the process of creating the bear management plan. Today I am going to talk about some conservation and preservation to this plan. I handed out a paper. Number one is the San Juan and La Sal hunt. These units are to bear hunters what the Henrys are to deer hunters. They both take up to 12 points to draw. We would like to see the season dates the same as the rest of the state. If this isn't possible we would compromise at August 18<sup>th</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup>. We are asking to preserve our very best bear hunt. Those are the premium units in this state. If you look at the dates the Division rolled it back one week so it would go from the 20<sup>th</sup> of August to September 7<sup>th</sup> verses going the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. It doesn't seem like it changes it that much but if you sit down and look at a calendar it went from six weekends to two weekends. It took our most premium hunt and pushed it to two weekends. Number two, we support the spot and stalk hunt if it is done with reasonable tag numbers. We would recommend starting out with 10 tags instead of 30, 15 the following year if your harvest data gives you room to move up and 20 for the third year and we would like to ask that the female harvest and the average age of the bears being killed be taken into consideration when increasing tags on this or allotting these spot and stalk tags. Most of the studies show that with spot and stalk your female harvest is a lot higher and your average age is a lot lower. I am going to skip number three because I think everything else is more important. The Wasatch Mountains, Current Creek/Avintaquin spring harvest objective we would like to see that changed to a female sub-quota. We don't know how it is going to work. It doesn't really change anything. You can still sell over the counter tags as many as you want but it helps protect the bear population. The female quota the Division has set at 40 percent, you kill four females and the hunt shuts down and we preserve something to hunt next year, the year after, the year after. When I sat through the



bear management plan with Kevin and everybody we were reassured multiple times that this harvest objective wouldn't be like a lion harvest objective. There are a lot of people involved from the time we make the plan until this comes about and we are asking for that safety net of the female sub-quota. Thank you for your time.

Fred Oswald – How does the Division feel about date changes on the San Juan and La Sals?

John Shivik – The date changes again this wasn't done without substantial deliberation. It does make things more complicated which is not what we want to do. I hinted at the numbers before that indicated that those are unique units. There are a lot of passions and more conflict there and we are trying to balance it. We are really interested in opportunity but if we look at just the seasons for the hounds the first one starts April 7<sup>th</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>. June is the only month there aren't any. July 7<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> and the second half of the pursuit is the 30<sup>th</sup> all the way through August 12<sup>th</sup> and then start again even with our adjusted dates on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August to September 7<sup>th</sup>, and I know it is a prime unit but we put that stop on the 7<sup>th</sup> to allow one week for the archery deer and elk hunters to be out there and actually get the rut without having the dogs out there as well. Then the dogs start again after that. I appreciate the input and the frustration there but this is one of those things where there is a lot of opportunity and we are really trying to balance it. There is still overlap between the hunters and the dogs. Ben has said it in the past that everyone should share the mountain but the fact is we still need a little bit of free time for everybody and we are trying to do that.

Jason Binder – In the past I have stood here and represented the Houndsmen and tonight I am going to be representing myself. Houndsmen are a very valuable tool to the state and managing bear populations and letting the Division know where the bear population is at. This is something we need to preserve whether it is spring, summer or fall. We see that during the summer when we are out there running the bears there are no bears in campgrounds. For the past seven years I have worked with the DWR and endured the RAC process with great outcomes and even more downfalls. There are a few things I would really like you to think about tonight. How many of you truly understand bear biology and what it takes to keep a stable and healthy bear population? These tag numbers and harvest strategies are going to be very devastating to our bear population. I personally sat in on the planning board for the new management plan and tag increases on prime hunting areas was highly addressed by the board and Kevin Bunnell assured us that this would not happen on our premium units and what are we seeing, 30 tag increases. In the last 20 years we have had 10 different mammals coordinators and it would be a lot better and more stable if we could keep someone in tune with the bear and lion issues we are having. Bears are a very delicate animal to manage. Over harvesting and sub-adults will have a drastic and devastating effect on our states valuable resource. We have already sat around and watched the devastation of our lion population under harvest objective hunt strategies. Our bear population will never recover if hunted this way and without strict and closely monitored female and adult harvest and setting strict female sub-adult quotas of no more than 20 to 30 percent on any given unit. The way harvest objective is managed in this state can be viewed more as legalized poaching because time and time again animals are over harvested on HO units and it is just brushed off and tag numbers are never lowered. This has been seen year after year with lion harvest. Female sub quotas should be put on the spot and stalk units with 20 to 30 percent because you are not going to know what you are shooting through a rifle scope at 300 yards. Mother Nature plays a very valuable role in whether bears survive and young are born and make it past two years old. Everyone in this room should ask their self why were Hal Black and Jordan Pederson not involved in this bear management strategy after all they have over 50 years of bear study here in Utah put together. Another thing I would like to address is the shortened season dates on La Sal and San Juan fall season. The last two years I have had the opportunity to hunt with limited entry elk hunters on the Wasatch unit and the San Juan unit and I never saw a bear hunter or ever heard a dog come through the country. They always ask me why we don't see any bear hunters with all the bears we are seeing. Because there is no opportunity to hunt in the fall. Our tags are just as important

to us bear hunters and we should have the regular season like the rest of the state. Thank you for your time.

Hal Black – BYU professor extraordinaire – John, do you understand the phrase being thrown under the bus? I can't believe Kevin is not here. You are doing a good job. John mentioned these collared females around the state which he knows are not enough of a sample but it is a start. I think the proclamation should stipulate that it is against the rules or the law to harvest a collared female. That might help preserve that small sample. The other thing is, Jason eluded to this, there was no conspiracy, at least none that I know of, to keep me off the bear management plan but this plan is I think the most sophisticated that the state has had and I know John well enough to know that he is capable of implementing it and monitoring it. I have no doubts that it will be a good thing. My only concern is, and again Jason alluded to this, if you go through the names Elo, Pederson, Blackwell, McLaughlin, Bates, Wolfe, Bunnell these are mammals coordinators. We have averaged a new coordinator about every two years. This may be silly on my part but I would hope that we might expect in John someone who has an interest in a variety of wildlife. He has had some bear experience and lion work. We trust that if he stays in this position, and he left a good position to come here and I am not sure why but I think he must have some deep seeded interest in management and I would hope that we would do as a community and in all of our capacities what we can to see him supported in this new position and hopefully we can go another ten years without a new coordinator. Ten in twenty years is not enough to have a sound management program. Whatever we can do to encourage John to stay and be involved would be a good thing. Personally I would pledge him my support in that endeavor as well. Thank you John and crawl out from under the bus if you are capable.

Chad Coburn – Utah Houndsmen Association – I would like to reiterate what Mr. Young said and elaborate a bit on our three concerns with the plan. We had members sit in on it and it is a good plan, it's a good start. Let's see what happens. Here are three revisions that really make sense. That San Juan/La Sal fall tag we are talking five permits. Those are some huge units. I had the tag two years ago, no conflicts. Tony had the tag last year, no conflicts. The Bowman's Association just stood up and said they have no exception to this. I talked to Justin Shannon and he said it was the bow hunters who had the problem so why don't we take the conservation permits and say there are no hunts and let me, a resident who waited 12 years to draw that tag hunt that same hunt under those same pretenses. There is no conflict down there with five permits. Give a guy the same privilege an elk hunter has. Every year it changes, it's the rifle hunters, it's the muzzleloader hunters now we are running them into town. There is something going on in that region that makes me say what is going on? It is no where else in the state but those two units and it's always a different conflict. The 30 spot and stalk we agreed to that but here is what we ask, when we started this summer training season we were told let's start out slow so we started with a couple units. Then it grew and we had to make revisions and take July 24<sup>th</sup> out of it. We made that revision because of the conflicts down there with the Forest Service and everybody else and it worked. Summer training season has been a sweet deal. The only conflict we have now is supposedly bears in town. Let's start out that program we are recommending 10, 15 and 20. Let's walk into that plan rather than going with the 30 tags which is just a bit under the total spring tags. Let's not jump into something we don't know what we are doing. John said we can only mirror what Colorado is doing and we think this is what happened on the Book Cliffs. Let's walk into this slow rather than getting our sow harvest too high. On the Avintaquin, it is a simple safety measure to put in a female sub quota. Harvest objective has been very aggressive on lions. A sub-quota is not going to change the plan by putting it in there.

### **RAC Discussion**

Fred Oswald – I would like to formulate what our issues are in regards to this and see if we can work our way through them. Presenters let me know if I am indicating what you have actually

requested. First of all on the Utah Bowman's Association they are recommending basically on the Wasatch, Current Creek/Avintaquin that they basically have instead of one hunt with 10 tags they want to have two hunts with seven and three. One hunt would be a harvest objective hunt and the second would be a limited entry archery only hunt.

Ben Lowder – The numbers of seven and three those are not numbers of tags but the target of bears to be taken so seven would be the harvest objective on the harvest objective hunt and then three bears would be the target of bears to be taken and based on a 40 percent success rate would allow seven to eight tags.

Fred Oswald – So the Division is recommending just a harvest objective hunt with a quota of ten and you are recommending two hunts, the first harvest objective with a quota of seven and then limited entry archery only with seven tags.

On the Utah Houndsmen proposal they are basically asking for three changes. The first to change the fall limited entry hunt dates from August 20 to September 2<sup>nd</sup> they are asking for August 18<sup>th</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup> which was said that would give them six weekends instead of two. Second of all with the spot and stalk the Division is recommending 30/30/30 for the three years and the houndsmen are recommending 10/15/20 for the three years. Finally on the Wasatch Mountains, Currant Creek/Avintaquin unit they would recommend that instead of that being a harvest objective unit that it be changed to a female quota unit.

Matt Clark – Are there conflicts between the bowman's and the houndsmen's proposals?

? - They coincide.

Duane Smith – You guys said you sat in on the deliberations for the bear plan when it was formulated. Were you voted down, were you not heard? This is obviously a plan that came out of a group of people who had a variety of vested interests and this is what we are seeing and now you are coming here asking as a special interest group to vote to modify the plan. Were you not successful there so you want us to help you?

Chet Young – Actually the bear management plan was approved and implemented requiring several modifications, which is what the Division's proposal states. These are all modifications that have been made after the management plan was established.

Duane Smith – I understand that but did you have representation on the original plan when this was put together?

Chet Young – Yes I did.

Duane Smith – And did you propose this at the original management plan formulation?

? – The hunt strategy was but not the numbers and dates.

Duane Smith – And it was not accepted at that time?

? – The Division sets the numbers after the management plan is made.

Duane Smith – But they set them according to what the management plan guidelines were. John is that correct?

John Shivik – A lot of the dates are still similar. The plan would say you do an extended season if there is a lot of nuisance for instance and that was carried over. That typically would be ended the first week of June.

Duane Smith – We saw this and we deliberated their proposals originally and it went back and now we are seeing it again. We heard from vested interest groups and that time and they were directed to go back and formulate the plan. That has happened and we are hearing from the groups again.

? – Is there anything that the houndsmen are asking for that goes against the plan or is it they are just asking for some wiggle room within the plan?

? – It really is no different then when you guys passed the 29 management units and all we are concerned about are dates and permit numbers.

Duane Smith – I understand that but those dates were evaluated at pretty great lengths as to why they were set up in terms of conflict. You are sitting here telling us there is not conflict. I am

hearing you say that but I also heard those who manage and manipulate this system saying there was conflict. We got 20 complaints on the La Sals. Those dates were adjusted to alleviate some of that conflict, were they not?

John Shivik- Yes that is exactly it.

Sarah Flinders – From the Forest Service standpoint the numbers are a concern for us on the Nebo unit. The numbers elsewhere are not a concern of ours. Allowing more baiting in the spring for some groups brings up a point that we have talked about throughout the spring and the summer because we do indeed have a lot of bears in our campgrounds and we do have a lot of user conflict in the Hobble Creek area which is the Wasatch, West and our Nebo units. Maybe a solution or something we would like to see is to move those bait stations and where you can start running hounds further away from developed areas, housing and campgrounds. I know we have a half a mile away from roads, campgrounds and residences set when you come into get a bait permit. I am not sure what the Division has I think it is actually closer than that. We would like to extend that further away to possibly one mile. We are pretty sure the bear problem we had in Hobble Creek came from the bait station that was a half a mile away from homes and the campground. That would be something that if we are going to allow for these changes that we would like to request that we move those bait stations out at least a mile as well as the distance they can start running hounds. We are seeing a big problem. When you look at where we have allowed the bait stations and where we are having these problems we see a direct correlation between them. We would like to ask that we put a provision in to move those areas back to minimize the human/bear conflicts but allow for some of these changes to be made.

John Shivik – This did come up at the last board meeting where we did deny a bait station that was greater than a half a mile. One of the things we realize that the ½ mile/100 yards distance in our guide book is a minimum and so each of those CORs is reviewed where it is. They have to coordinate with the Forest Service and with us. I actually just wrote that language this morning that will go into the revised proclamation that will indicate that we need to assess other factors. The rule gives us those minimums but doesn't give us the maximums.

Sarah Flinders – Along with that it might be a good idea to put another asterisk, I know you have for some of your other hunts, that just because you have a tag doesn't mean that you are going to have access to some of those areas. It is all based on snow conditions.

George Holmes – On the spot and stalk do you have a best guess of what the success is?

John Shivik – Our neighboring state, Colorado has 12 percent. In Utah the Book Cliffs hunt two years ago there were seven permits issued, there were three taken. Last year on the Book Cliffs there were zero taken.

George Holmes – So out of 14 permits three were taken for a 20% success.

? – In a roadless area.

Kristofer Marble – I think that we do have a good plan in place and I believe in the plan, however, having looked over the plan I haven't seen anywhere that says if we get 20 complaints in a year we have to reduce the season down to two weekends. What I am getting at is we have some wiggle room within that plan and I think the recommendations that have been made tonight all seem to be within that wiggle room. I would like to make a motion to accept the four recommendations proposed tonight.

## **VOTING**

Fred Oswald – There has been a motion by Kris to accept the four recommendations made tonight.

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the four recommendations presented: (1) by the Bowman's Association, (3) by the Houndmen's Association and (1) by the a RAC**

**member to extend the closing date from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> on units with nuisance concerns**

**Seconded by Matt Clark**

Karl Hirst – Can we get some clarification on that. Are we just voting on those four items and if we have some additional things we would like to discuss would you like them added before this motion or after this motion?

Fred Oswald – I think Kris's motion is to accept the Division's recommendations other than those four changes. I think it would be appropriate Karl, if you would like to talk about any other changes we would then be voting on the Division's recommendations.

Karl Hirst – Let me bring up one more change to see if we can add it to this motion. Having worked through these issues with baiting that Sarah discussed one of the problems you have with that is the early closure. We have talked a lot about nuisance bears and one of the biggest comments I get is why does ADC kill so many bears instead of hunters. It all comes into we are closing that season too early. If we go to a mile you will eliminate baiting on the Wasatch because you won't find a spot because the gates aren't open. If we extend the season to June 10<sup>th</sup> the gates will get open and the hunters won't get nervous about that. It gives them some time to get into the other areas. It will give them some room to expand out and get away from the campgrounds. The hunters don't want to hunt down low in say Hobble Creek they just can't get anywhere else. My recommendation is that on the units that we are already extending it five days because of nuisance bear problems that we extend that season to June 10<sup>th</sup> instead of June 3<sup>rd</sup>. That will alleviate a lot of what Sarah is talking about; it will address the nuisance bear issue that we have talked a lot about. It will address the sportsmen's concerns about why ADC is killing so many bears. We all know that is a prime time for bears.

Fred Oswald – If Kris is willing to accept that as an amendment to his motion and Matt is willing to accept that and second the motion we can roll the whole thing into basically five recommendations. One from the bowman's, three from the houndsmen and Karl's extension recommendation and we can vote on the Division's plan with those five changes.

Kris is okay with that and Matt is okay with that. Further discussion?

Richard Hansen – So it is all or nothing?

Fred Oswald – If you are not comfortable with part of the motion you can vote no.

**In Favor: Matt Clark, Kristofer Marble**

**Opposed: Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, Karl Hirst, Duane Smith, George Holmes, Timothy Fehr, Sarah Flinders**

**Motion failed 2 to 7**

Motion made by Karl Hirst that the first four items are intact but we approve the 30 tags spot and stalk on the San Juan unit. The date would be extended, the Avintaquin would be a split hunt with harvest objective as the bow hunters wanted the season would be extended for the fall on the La Sal, the San Juan for the fall hunt that the houndsmen are asking for and the Division would get the 30 spot and stalk permits they are asking for. And extend to June 10<sup>th</sup> on the nuisance units.

Fred Oswald – So this is the same as the first motion except on item two where the houndsmen were asking for 10/15/20 you are going with the Division's recommendation of 30/30/30 but with the other recommendations from the houndsmen and the bowman's in place.

Karl Hirst – Yes.

Karl's motion is to approve the Division's recommendations with these exceptions: 1) on the La Sals the dates would be changed to August 18<sup>th</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup>. 2) The Wasatch, Current

Creek would be changed from harvest objective to female quota. 3) The houndsmen's recommendations on the two hunts and the seven permits would be changed

Karl Hirst - I am going withdraw that, the motion is getting too complicated.

Fred Oswald – Okay, let's go ahead and have a motion on the date changes for the La Sal and San Juan

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to change the dates on the La Sal unit to be extended to August 18th – September 20th.**

**Seconded by Karl Hirst**

**In Favor: Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, Karl Hirst, Duane Smith, George Holmes, Matt Clark, Kristofer Marble, Sarah Flinders**

**Opposed: Timothy Fehr**

**Motion passed 8 to 1**

Fred Oswald – Is there a motion to change the Wasatch, Current Creek from harvest objective to female quota?

Kristofer Marble – I will make that motion.

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to change the Wasatch, Current Creek from harvest objective to female quota

Seconded by Matt Clark

George Holmes – With a female quota you wait until you have a certain number of females harvested and then you close it. So you could theoretically have several males harvested but when three females are harvested you stop.

Fred Oswald – Correct.

Kristofer Marble – The motion I was making was to add the archery only hunt as proposed by the Bowman's Association. That was what I was making a motion on.

Fred Oswald – So we are talking about Wasatch, Current Creek and the Bowman's recommendation is to divide it into two hunts and the Houndsmen's recommendation is to change it from harvest objective to female quota, your motion is to adopt the Bowman's recommendation.

Kristofer Marble – Correct

Fred Oswald – Is there a second to that?

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to adopt the Bowman's Association recommendation on the Wasatch Unit to have two hunts. One hunt would be a harvest objective hunt and the second would be a limited entry archery only hunt.**

**Seconded by Karl Hirst**

**In Favor: Karl Hirst, Matt Clark, Kristofer Marble, Sarah Flinders**

**Opposed: Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, George Holmes, Duane Smith, Timothy Fehr**

**Motion failed 4 to 5**

Fred Oswald – Is there a motion on the Houndsmen's proposal to change the Wasatch, Current Creek from harvest objective to female quota?

**Motion was made by Matt Clark to change the Wasatch, Current Creek unit from harvest objective to female quota**

**Seconded by Kristofer Marble**

**In Favor: Matt Clark, Kristofer Marble**

**Opposed: Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, Karl Hirst, Duane Smith, George Holmes, Timothy Fehr, Sarah Flinders**  
**Motion failed 2 to 7**

Fred Oswald – Is there a motion on Karl's plan to extend the date from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup>?

**Motion was made by Karl Hirst to change the extended dates from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> on units with nuisance concerns**

**Seconded by Larry Fitzgerald**

**In Favor: Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, Karl Hirst, Duane Smith, George Holmes, Kristofer Marble, Sarah Flinders**

**Opposed: Matt Clark, Timothy Fehr**

**Motion passed 7 to 2**

Fred Oswald – I am ready for a motion to accept the rest of the recommendations as presented

**Motion was made by Richard Hansen to accept the remainder of the Division's recommendations as presented**

**Seconded by Duane Smith**

**In Favor: Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, Karl Hirst, Duane Smith, George Holmes, Matt Clark, Kristofer Marble, Timothy Fehr, Sarah Flinders**

**Opposed: None**

**Motion passed unanimously**

- 5) **Falconry Guidebook and Rule R657-20 (Action)**  
- **Jim Parish, Avian Coordinator**

**Questions from the RAC**

Matt Clark – Is there a cap on number of falconers in the state? Are the numbers going up or down?

Jim Parish – No there is no cap and numbers are going down a little.

Richard Hansen – Is it still illegal to possess parts of a raptor? Can you get them mounted?

Jim Parish – It is illegal to possess those parts. You can apply for permission to do that but you need a good reason.

Richard Hansen – What is a good reason?

Jim Parish – Education, if you are qualified to do presentations to school groups or use them in some way. The service is not going to just issue a permit because you want to. You have to get a federal permit and then we usually comply with their recommendations for our COR.

Matt Clark – Any owl species you can use as well?

Jim Parish – Other than the exceptions I mentioned all the species are available but typically falconers don't use the owls as much.

Duane Smith – How do you deal with your inspections and who does them?

Jim Parish – Our Conservation Officers perform those. The falconers call into the region where they live and request the inspection and then the C.O. is charged to go out and conduct that and we make that a matter of record in their folder. We are looking at the inspection program.

**Questions from the Public**

Ben Woodruff – Utah Falconer's Association and self – We completely support everything that has been presented here. Not only has Jim done an immaculate job at trying to cover everything

he has also put wording to make sure there are not bad loop holes. The sponsorship is huge in mentoring upcoming falconers. I am also representing the Great Basin Research Center and they would like to see younger falconers (under 18) who are assisting with education be supervised. Jim Parish – The minimum age, if they are under 18 we do require that a parent or guardian sign for them to participate and to cover any liabilities that would result from someone being under 18. That is already covered in the rule.

Larry Fitzgerald – I don't know if you are involved with the trials that take place out in Rush Valley but if you are I thought maybe you could extend an invitation for people to go out to that. Ben Woodruff – Absolutely. There are two events we have coming up very quickly. The first one is winter fest and that is January 28<sup>th</sup> in Sandy at Lone Peak Park. It is a free event and anybody is welcome to come. In February, I believe it is the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> we have the Utah Sky Trials which is a world class opportunity to see falcons diving from 2,000 to 3,000 feet and going full speed. It is in Rush Valley past Fairfield. That costs to attend. If you look up the Utah Sky Trials online you can get that information. Larry Fitzgerald – Ben, tell them to shut the gates when they leave.

### **Comments from the Public**

Craig Bonnam – Do falconers have to follow the same rules as bird hunters?

Jim Parish – Yes they do. There is an extension for waterfowl.

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Larry Fitzgerald to accept as the Falconry Guide Book & Rule as presented**

**Seconded by Richard Hansen**

**In Favor: Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, Karl Hirst, Duane Smith, George Holmes, Matt Clark, Kristofer Marble, Timothy Fehr, Sarah Flinders**

**Opposed: None**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.**

**40 in attendance**

**Next board meeting January 12, 2012 at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake**

**Next RAC meeting February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Central Region Conference Center at 6:00 p.m.**

Dinner will be served from 6 – 6:30 compliments of the Division and then we will have our agenda. The agenda will be set by you and we need to do that by the first of January so we can give notice. If you have recommendations on what you would like to talk about get back to me or John Fairchild.



**Northern Regional Advisory Council**

**Dec 14, 2011**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Place:** Weber State University

**RAC Present**

John Blazzard- Agric  
Robert Byrnes –At Large  
John Cavitt- Noncon.  
Paul Cowley- Forest Service  
Joel Ferry- Agric  
James Gaskill- At Large  
Russ Lawrence - At Large  
Jon Leonard- Sportsman  
Ann Neville- Noncon.  
Bryce Thurgood- At Large  
Craig Van Tassell- Sportsman  
John Wall- At Large

**DWR Present**

Jodie Anderson  
Jim Parrish  
Justin Dolling  
Darren Debloois  
Randy Wood  
Kevin Bunnell  
Dave Beveridge  
Phil Douglass

**Wildlife Board**

Ernie Perkins  
Bill Fenimore

**RAC Excused**

R. Jefre Hicks- At Large  
Jill Silvey- BLM

**RAC Absent**

G. Lynn Nelson- Elected

**Meeting Begins: 6:00 p.m.**

**Number of Pages: 10**

**Introduction:** Robert Byrnes-Chair

**Agenda:**

Review of Agenda and Nov 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Wildlife Board Meeting Update

Regional Update

Bear Recommendations for 2012

Falconry Guidebook and Rule R657-20

\*Hunting from Antelope Island Causeway\* Addition to the agenda.

**Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**

Introduction of RAC Members

**Item 2. Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Nov 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Cavitt- Move that Carl goes after Item. 6 after the falconry and approve the agenda as amended.

**Second:** Neville

**Motion Carries:** Unanimous

Byrnes- Received an e-mail from Paul that we should amend Item. 4 that Justin Dolling is the Regional Supervisor, not the acting Regional Supervisor.

**Motion:** Gaskill- Approve the minutes as amended.

**Second:** Cowley

**Motion Carries:** Unanimous

**Item 3. Wildlife Board Update**

On Bucks and Bulls and OIAL season dates and application timeline, the change we included in our motion the Wildlife Board approved for Willard Peak. CWMU management plans for Sardine Canyon season dates and permit numbers changes that we included in our motion were changed slightly on the recommendation of the CWMU program coordinator. They added one additional public tag. Change requested on the Ensign Peak moose tags and that passed. There was also a change to the Alton CWMU tags; it was approved by the Wildlife Board.

Landowner permit numbers passed as presented with a variance for the Diamond Mountain landowner tags.

**Item 4. Regional Update**

-Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Encouraged audience to pick up Bear Aware handout.

Deer Classifications

Elk Plan revisions

Deer collaring project  
Flights for elk and moose this winter  
Deer winter range action plan monitoring for illegal activity.  
Questions about deer unit structures.  
Kevin Bunnell- There is a map posted on the website now.  
Fisheries are doing electro fishing surveys on the Weber River.  
Johnson Creek project completed.  
Mantua is really good fishing right now.  
Elk Festival at Hardware Ranch Dec 17.  
Working with Dedicated Hunters to get guidebooks out.  
Finishing up on the Millville and Henefer habitat projects.  
Ruby pipeline is finishing up.

### **Item 5. Bear Recommendations for 2012**

- Randy Wood, Regional Wildlife Manager

See Handout

### **Public Questions**

Chet Young- Utah Houndsman Association- Bear management plan is set up for liberal, moderate and light harvest. On San Juan and La Sal by adding 30 more spot and stock tags to them, it is listed as moderate and it actually puts it way above liberal permit number wise.

Randy Wood- As far as permit number, we would have to look at the harvest structure and what comes out of the percent of adult males in the population and the females in the harvest. If those are showing it out, then we would pull the permit numbers down if it showed we were over harvesting. With those two targets that we look at.

Young- Correct. Going through the numbers, it still puts it higher than liberal. It was considered light harvest last year so it is a plus or minus 20% on the tags.

Wood- We are just starting the new plan. This is the first cycle and it is recommendation here. We will look at those harvest indices. The females in the harvest, the adult males over 5 years and those permits will be adjusted as we go through this to put it into that harvest strategy.

### **RAC Questions**

James Gaskill- How frequently do you evaluate the light, moderate and liberal designations?

Wood- The plan calls to monitor it for 3 years.

Gaskill- Is the increase or decrease in male vs. female bears a biological thing or is it simply because the hunters decide not to shoot a female or a young male?

Wood- You are asking if it is a choice of the hunter or is it a biological.

Gaskill- That is the question.

Wood- Normally, hunters will tend to go towards the males if they have the opportunity. There is the assumption that they probably harvest at the rate they are out there the time they are hunting. In spring, you are looking at the females coming out later than the males. The later you go in the year, the females then show up. In a longer spring season, you start to pick more females up into the harvest.

Gaskill- Bear incidence going up with pursuit. Is that because we are chasing the bears into town?

Wood- What they want to do down in La Sal is look to see if there is a correlation. They want to try this and see if it reduces the incidence.

Gaskill- The incidence does not necessarily mean anything more than a sighting?

Wood- No, an incident is where you have a conflict between the bear and humans. In this, they actually put "town bears". So, bears are actually showing up and causing problems. It is not that someone was hiking and saw a bear. It caused a problem.

Paul Cowley- I am wondering how it was determined how many spot and stock permits would be recommended?

Wood- Justin can jump in here because he helped more than me. They looked at surrounding states. Colorado does it right now and they are looking at about a 3% success rate on their spot and stock hunting. Somewhere I remember reading about some going up to 12% spot and stock. When you are looking at it, we kind of estimated about that harvest rate. We won't know until we get into the plan and look at it. Then again, we will use the harvest data putting in there to adjust those permit levels as we go through the plan to keep us in the harvest rate.

Cowley- As we talk about human/bear conflicts, how many does it take to make it a light or moderate vs. a high?

Wood- I don't know that we actually categorize that did we Justin?

Justin Dolling- No, I don't know that there were any thresholds established to move it from one harvest strategy to another. It was just one of the elements that could be present that it would move our decision making process from light to moderate or moderate to light.

Cowley- So we are not saying 20 incidents move it to a moderate or 50 move it to liberal.

Dolling- No, there was no threshold set like that.

John Blazzard- When you have the harvest objective, do you have a feel for how many more females are killed? It seems like whenever you have a lion harvest objective, they shoot the first lion they see.

Wood- We don't now and the plan asked us to look at it under 3. That will show up in the harvest and the percent females in the harvest does regulate how we would adjust permits. We are looking at the female quota keying in right on that so it will shut down that one unit when 4 females are harvested or a total of 10. We are trying to be cautious that way.

Robert Byrnes- The other states that have spot and stock, are they comparable to what you are proposing with no hounds and no baiting?

Kevin Bunnell- Yes.

Wood- Kevin says yes.

Craig Van Tassell- Hunt objectives, Are the hunt objectives reported daily?

Bunnell- They have 48 hours to report on a harvest objective.

## **Public Comment**

Ben Lowder- Utah Bowmen's Association- (Handout given to RAC members). Supports DWR efforts to provide increased opportunities with this plan. We were not involved in creating the plan but support the plan. One opportunity that currently exists that we feel is being eliminated by this proposal and that is the opportunity to hunt over bait on the Wasatch Mountains, Currant Creek/Avintaquin unit. DWR is recommending a spring hunt harvest objective that would allow spot and stock hunting and running hounds but does not allow bait. Propose to

put in place two spring hunts on that unit. First being a harvest objective hunt just as the DWR is recommending with one adjustment being a decrease in harvest objective from 10 bears down to 7. Hunt #2 would be a spring limited entry archery only hunt targeting 3 bears based on the 10 year average of 40% success rate. It would allow us to issue 7 or 8 tags. We propose that spring limited entry archery only tag would be the same as any other archery bear tag that we are currently issuing. It would allow spot and stock hunting methods with hounds and with bait as well. This is not an archery or bowhunting issue, this is a baiting issue. Our concern is with the Forest Service. If we are to allow baiting opportunities, we are concerned the Forest Service would get overwhelmed with baiting requests. This would reduce the amount of baiting requests.

Chet Young- Utah Houndsman Association- Reduced season dates changes the San Juan and La Sal hunts drastically. We would like to see those dates change to Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. We would really like to keep them where they are at but feel that is a fair compromise. Support the spot and stock hunt but with reasonable tag allotments. We feel 30 is too many on San Juan and La Sal. Would like to see 10 tags the first year and move it up to 15. Just start out slow. Ask that tag numbers be reduced. Would like to see the Wasatch Mountains, Currant Creek/Avintaquin spring harvest objective changed to a quota with a female sub quota on it. This protects the females.

David Ferguson- Chet addressed most of my concerns. Trophy quality of a bear is basically in the quality of their hair. The quality of bear hair from Aug. to Sept. is generally terrible. Not only does it lessen the opportunity, you end up with a bear that's hair is ½ inch long vs. October which would be the best. The later into September makes a big difference.

## **RAC Comment**

Paul Cowley- Could Randy respond to some of the suggestions that have been made here.

Randy Wood- What our recommendations that we have presented is in line with the plan. We would recommend going with what we have put out to look at it. The plan has the triggers in there that, when we look at harvest, if it starts falling outside of the range, permit numbers will be adjusted to bring it back in. Our recommendation is what you have there and it is following the plan that was approved in January.

Cowley- I am wondering if you could talk about the season change.

Wood- The season change in there, and I may have to have Kevin jump in, in the La Sal Mountains is looking at conflicts between big game hunters.

Kevin Bunnell- It is a tough situation, particularly on the San Juan and the La Sal. We are trying to balance the user group because we have had a lot of conflicts and calls. Our southeastern region deals with a lot of conflict between the user groups. A year ago, we ended the spike only hunts a week prior to limited entry hunts to give the limited entry guys some time on the mountain during the best part. We essentially used the same logic to set these dates. We are cutting down opportunity but they still have 19 days compared to 11 days for an elk hunter. There is a balance we are trying to strike here between a situation where you have two very sought after resources on the same mountain. It is a tough balancing act. This was our attempt to try and make that balance.

Robert Byrnes- The hunt does extend into November, or starts again in November.

Bunnell- Yes, in those two units in particular, they are far enough south that there is a pretty good chance of bears being out that time of year. La Sal is probably less so because it is higher mountain.

Russ Lawrence- Baiting on the Wasatch. Has that been going on in the past?

Bunnell- It has but the difference is we are going to be attracting a lot of people there since it is an over-the-counter harvest objective unit that allows dogs. There has been pursuit on that unit in the past but it is not a unit that attracts people for pursuit. It will attract more people with dogs to be in the area during that spring hunt which increases the potential for conflict. It also gives our law enforcement guys the opportunity to work illegal baits. Under this scenario, it is illegal. They have requested a chance to try and figure out how to deal with that. This gives them at least one place in the state where they can experiment with that from a law enforcement side.

Bryce Thurgood- You are significantly cutting down the opportunity by not allowing bait archery hunt.

Bunnell- On one unit. On the other 22 units in the state, there are archery hunts on every one of them. It does take one unit out of the picture but it is only one out of 23.

John Blazzard- A lot of times, after the spring hunt ends, there are problem bears that get chased or treed because they were causing problems somewhere. Is there a process by which you could let a spring hunter who did not harvest a bear go in and take one of those problem bears? Is that already in place?

Wood- Yes, we already do that right now. When we have that, we go to the hunter list and call the hunters up. It is sometimes tough because we have got to have someone who can respond when the bear is there that still has a permit. We also ask them that whatever it is, that they take it because it is a problem bear. That is in place now.

Robert Byrnes- Received email from Bill Johnson supporting the spot and stock. Also, an email signed by a large amount of people supporting harvest objective used where it needs to be for properly managing female sub quota and supporting spot and stock. They would like to change the Wasatch Mountain, Currant Creek/Avintaquin and have a spring limited entry and change the tag numbers.

## **Motion**

**Motion-** Gaskill- Move to approve the recommendations the Division has presented.

**Second-** Wall

## **Discussion on the motion**

Thurgood- Is this on approving the whole?

Byrnes- As presented.

Leonard- I am somewhat uncomfortable given the amount of input we have listened to tonight and received in emails. Given it is the first year of a three year plan. Hopefully, some of those differences get worked out ahead of time. There is a fair amount of disagreement. I assume the division has some pretty good numbers; they are not just grasping these numbers.

Byrnes- It is following the new bear plan.

Gaskill- That was going to be my comment is we don't want to fall back into the trap of approving a plan and then changing it the first year or even prior to the first year. I agree that I

have concerns that people don't agree with all the details of the plan. I would like to see it run and year and see what happens.

Thurgood- I wouldn't mind seeing a little bit of compromise like these guys are saying. If you are waiting 10-12 years to draw a bear tag and go shoot a bear that you cannot do anything with because the hide is not good, that is kind of a waste of a resource.

Byrnes- There has been a conflict issue on those two units for a while. Especially the San Juan. That is why those seasons were shortened, at least last year they were shortened. Just trying to balance the other user groups also. Some of the summer pursuit seasons are shortened because of conflicts. That has come around through the RAC process.

**Motion Carries- Unanimous**

**Item 6. Falconry Guidebook and Rule R657-20**

- Jim Parrish, Avian Coordinator

See Handout

**RAC Questions**

Russ Lawrence- How many falconers are under 18 right now?

Jim Parrish- I don't have that number off the top of my head. There is language in the rule that if they are under 18, they have to have a parent or guardian sign a liability if they want to participate in the sport. There are not very many that are that young.

Paul Cowley- Do we know about how many birds are currently in captivity and the species?

Parrish- Our database has every bird that the falconers have in their possession. Of the 190, it depends on the class. Master class is the most liberal. I don't have that number off the top of my head but we have that in our database.

John Blazzard- I don't understand some of these terms. I don't understand what imprint means and then when it says age class passage only, what does that mean?

Parrish- Passage refers to a bird that is less than 1 year old. It is a falconry term that is used a lot in our language and even scientific literature on these birds. An imprint is basically a bird that is confused. They associate you as either a sibling or parent. They are imprinted on humans. Where the issue comes is when they will look to you as a primary source of everything and some imprints will never develop fully into a free flying bird capable of taking quarry. At the same time, they will do some things that young birds do with each other like grab and play with each other. They will want to grab and play with you so there is some potential of injury with an imprinted bird. Individuals in the apprentice class generally do not have the experience to deal with that so we do not allow them to use those birds in falconry. If a general or master class falconer wishes to use an imprint then we are ok with that. They are not the choice birds for sure. Most of the falconers would rather not deal with the imprints. There are some pluses for the imprints but that is not one of them.

Jim Gaskill- Could you give the group here an idea of the take of falconers. Do they have any significant impact on any of the upland or even non-game species in Utah?

Parrish- No. There have been several studies on this and it has shown time and again that the practice of falconry has no impact on the resource. Not on the raptors themselves or the quarry they pursue.

John Cavitt- I was wondering if you could explain the process by which the division can verify that some of the restricted species were not taken in the state but rather one of the rules said out of state is acceptable and how that is verified. Are there any requirements the falconer has to have for that?

Parrish- Everything they do has to be reported, either electronically or on the same federal form they use to use 3186-A.

Neville- Ownership?

Parrish- Yes. Every time they transfer it from and to, species are listed and those that still have bands are reported. We have a pretty good handle on any of those activities. They have to do it within 5 business days.

Blizzard- In the process of a timber harvest, if a goshawk nest is found, there is an area retracted from that harvest so the bird is not disturbed. As soon as the babies hatch, a permit is issued so someone can go and take the babies out of the nest. It makes me wonder why? We never use to even worry about those kinds of things. All of that harvest is restricted but the birds are still taken.

Parrish- Generally, taking one of the young out of the nest does not cause the birds to abandon. Whereas a timber harvest may, and that is just a bit of an assumption on my part. Maybe Paul could answer that. There are buffers around a nest that the service has set up and most of us need to try and comply with that. It is a little different to take all the trees around the nest. If you did something like that vs. going in and just taking one of the young. They usually have 3-4 young in the nest.

Cowley- In the Forest Service, we basically have forest plan guides. Late 90's we did a conservation agreement throughout the state of Utah which basically sets timing constraints around nests. We basically buffer those nests by 30 acres. We have had some problems with falconers literally spiking trees and tearing down nests to get a bird. We have had some of those situations occur on our forest. Those have been reported back to the division because we felt like those were probably folks with permits actively trying to exercise their permit. We do some protection around nests to protect that species. We usually protect the 30 acres around the nest. We protect alternate nest sites. In total, it amounts to about 600 acres.

Byrnes- When a permit is issued for a gosling, is it generally one per nest?

Parrish- They have to leave at least one young in a nest but they typically can only take one bird out of a nest. If there are two young, they cannot take them both.

Byrnes- If there were three, they could take two?

Parrish- They could take up to two.

## **Public Comment**

Caleb Stroh - Utah Falconers Association- Support all of these recommendations.

Brandon Thueson- Utah Falconers Association- Support recommendations. A lot of the terms are hard to understand. As a club, we do not encourage methods that would cause harm to the trees. We want to protect nest sites.

## **Motion**

**Motion-** Neville-Move to approve the Falconry Guidebook and Rule R657-20 as presented.

**Second-** Gaskill



## **Discussion on the Motion**

Cowley- So we are recommending the changes as presented.

Neville- Sure.

**Motion Carries-** Unanimous

## **Item 7. Hunting from Antelope Island Causeway**

- Carl Ingwell, Public

Propose a review of the current shooting rules along the Antelope Island Causeway.

## **RAC Questions**

Jim Gaskill- Has anyone actually ever been shot?

Carl Ingwell- To my knowledge, No. Other than the gentleman that shot did come down on him but no injuries. I cannot personally one way or the other whether that has happened or not.

Craig Van Tassell- How do we proceed with this. Do we make a recommendation? I am concerned about the advertising. I am not against this.

Byrnes- It is not an action item. It has not been published that it would be on the agenda. Carl requested some time so we need to try and work on that, in how people can approach the council on important issues in our region and then try to get information back to people that can address that. That is why I included him in the agenda to give him a short time period to voice his concerns.

Paul Cowley- Thank you Carl for coming and presenting this concern that can be encouraged so the board can direct the division to take a closer look at this.

Byrnes- Who in the audience is in support of Carl's proposal? Raise your hands so I can get a count. 5 additional people. We are not going to take additional comment unless it is unique and outside of what Carl has already said.

John Cavitt- Don Paul is the previous Great Salt Lake ecosystem biologist and I think he adds a unique perspective.

Russ Lawrence- He is a unique individual.

Don Paul- I don't want to disrupt any process. I basically concur with what Utah Birders are recommending. I had an office on the Antelope Island visitor's center while in that project so I have driven the causeway many times. It is not an area used for hunting. I don't think anyone would be impacted if some kind of a restriction were to come about. Many of the birds that are associated with the Great Salt Lake causeway to Antelope Island are species that are here rarely. We have a number of species that are found mostly just on the Great Salt Lake so it is a real important site for birders as well as the species we are talking about. It probably should be restricted to shooting.

Byrnes- I have explained to Carl the current situation about the waterfowl season ending in a month from today. Also, the wildlife board meeting will not be until the 12<sup>th</sup> of January which is two days before the end of the season. Wildlife Board is not going to be acting upon a recommendation from us until then. The only thing that could happen could be a closure by the director or Wildlife Board for this season. In July, we will have the waterfowl guidebook

and rule which will come back again and that is an appropriate time for recommendations from the Division or the public to make changes to that guidebook and rule.

Thurgood- Isn't there already a rule that you cannot shoot within 100 feet of the road? Any state road or anything like that?

Byrnes- I don't think it is 100 feet.

Lawrence- It says within Utah state parks, camps or picnic sites overlooks. I consider the causeway almost like an overlook.

Byrnes- But it is outside of the park.

Lawrence- The overlook does not have to be in the park I don't think, the way I read this. Well, maybe it does.

Byrnes- It is an overlook within a park.

Joel Ferry- Can we make a recommendation to the Wildlife Board to ask the division to review this?

Byrnes- I think we can. We would like it to come back before the waterfowl guidebook and rule is presented in July.

Dolling- I think you guys are headed down the right track. The waterfowl rule and guidebook comes through July and August through our public process and gets presented to the Wildlife Board towards the middle of August. That is the time to hear this issue and both sides of concerns.

## **Motion**

**Motion:** Ferry- Recommend the Wildlife Board ask the Division to look at the issue and provide a recommendation with the Waterfowl Guidebook and Rule.

**Second:** Neville

**Motion Passes-** For: 10, Abstain: 1

Byrnes- The rule on the RAC's has attendance that you should contact me either through email or phone if you are going to be absent. If you are absent more than 2 meetings in a row, it is assumed that you have resigned. I will contact you if you have been absent twice and talk with you. Try to contact me if you are going to be absent.

Gaskill- I would really like to see some clarification from the legal people about this. I love to have people come in and I would like to see more people coming in saying they have an issue or something they want to talk about. I want to make sure we are not stepping over the line and doing things that are not appropriate. I do not think we did anything appropriate. I would really like to see something along those lines, clarification from the legal as well as from the Wildlife Board.

**Meeting Ends: 7:55 p.m.**